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Young people dance with flags yesterday in front of the Machpela Cave in Hebron at a rally held to celebrate prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu's victory last week over Prime Minister Shimon Peres. (Reuters)

Arafat: We will soon declare state

Netanyahu: Our position is unchanged

JON IMMANUEL in Akaba and DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE Palestinians will soon declare an independent state and no one can stop them, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat said yesterday.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said such a state is inevitable, while King Hussein of Jordan said his country would never block the will of the Palestinian people.

The three were speaking at a news conference in the garden of Hussein's winter palace, following a summit to discuss Arab policy in the wake of the Israeli elections.

Prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu studiously played down Arafat's remark in a statement issued by his office.

"Mr. Netanyahu's position opposing the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital is known. The prime minister-elect stresses once again that Israel's position is that Jerusalem will never be divided and will remain united under Israeli sovereignty," the statement said. "Declarations will not change this."

Arafat changed the tranquil atmosphere at the news conference when he said: "We are approaching [the time] to declare our independent Palestinian state and its capital in noble Jerusalem. I mean it. This is the desire of the Palestinian people and nobody can stop it."

Mubarak backed Arafat, saying even if the Likud opposed statehood for the Palestinians it did not matter.

"All these statements in this charter or that charter," he shrugged. "History will prove that the Palestinians are going to establish a state now or hereafter, whether we like it or not."

Hussein added: "The question is the right of the Palestinians on their soil, and we are for whatever they decide on. We will never under any conditions be a substitute for them."

Hussein did not directly support a Palestinian state when first asked and spoke only of the inevitability of the peace process. He stated Jordan's position on statehood only after Arafat and

ference was based, affirming their conviction that peace is an irreversible strategic choice for all parties in the region."

Netanyahu welcomed the joint communique.

"Prime minister-elect Netanyahu believes the comments made at the Akaba summit on advancing a process of peace in the Middle East should be welcomed," his statement read.

Hussein tried to dampen fears about the Likud, saying, "It is not a question of a peace camp as opposed to those who oppose peace. I believe the Israeli election was on the subject of the person of the prime minister."

However, the English-language *Jordan Times*, in contrast to Hussein, called the results of the election "a political sea change in the Jewish state."

A front-page commentary in the pro-government *A-Rai* expressed the view that Hussein came to the summit with no "special problem," like a man "who has not bet on one horse but on two horses," while Mubarak wanted to see whether Netanyahu would follow the process as begun by his Labor predecessors, and Arafat would stress that the situation "is full of danger."

Still, Arafat said he was not upset that, unlike Mubarak and Hussein, he had not received a personal request by Netanyahu for a meeting.

Mubarak stressed that Netanyahu did not say he would not meet with Arafat.

Arafat suggested that Netanyahu could be flexible, recalling that at the Madrid conference, "Netanyahu was the spokesman [for the Israeli delegation]. In his room meetings were going on between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations," although formally Israel insisted it would talk to the Palestinian delegation only as part of a joint delegation with Jordan.

The summit is the first of several expected during the next few weeks between Israel's neighbors. This weekend a trilateral summit between Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria is scheduled in Jidda, Saudi Arabia.

Celebration in Hebron marks Netanyahu's victory

HERB KEINON

THOUSANDS sang and danced in Hebron yesterday to celebrate prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu's victory at what was billed as a "thanksgiving rally for the saving of Hebron."

A message from Netanyahu was read at the rally, held at the courtyard outside the Machpela Cave.

"Settlers of Hebron, city of our forefathers: I share in your joy but unfortunately am unable to be with you," the statement read. "I am full of appreciation for your Zionist and pioneering work, which continues the Jewish presence in the oldest Jewish city in the world — the older sister of Jerusalem. Be strong and brave."

This was interpreted by some settlement leaders as an indication that Netanyahu does not intend to pull the IDF out of Hebron, which the previous government pledged to do.

"This statement means that Netanyahu supports the settlement in Hebron," said David Wilder, a Hebron settlement spokesman. "I personally think that there is no reason to relate to any of the rumors [that he will pull the IDF out of parts of the city], and think that it is part of a disinformation campaign. There is no reason to doubt the sincerity of what he said in the past regarding Hebron. I don't believe he will allow redeployment."

Wilder said the rally was to celebrate "the miracle that took place" that will keep the IDF from redeploying. He said he does not think the celebration is premature, since "the Likud was elected on a platform that Hebron can never be abandoned."

No Likud Knesset members attended the celebration, which was attended by Moleed MK Rehavam Ze'evi and MK Hanaan Porat.

Meanwhile, Hebron settlement leader Noam Arnon denied Palestinian charges that settlers, emboldened by the Netanyahu victory, had seized a building housing a Turkish bath adjacent to the Avraham Avim compound in the city.

Arnon said that Jews went into the room and tried to fix a ceiling and wall which, if they had collapsed, would have posed a danger to a preschool in the quarter. He added that the bath house is Jewish property, dating back to before the massacre of Jews in 1929.

Reuter quoted a Palestinian as saying that the Israelis "were effectively destroying the structure and using the stones to build a wall that would annex the bath."

"It hasn't been a week since Netanyahu's election victory and the settlers are already trying to expand their settlements," Salah Natshe, director of the Hebron Wakf, was quoted as saying.

Jewish family moves into Silwan

BILL HUTMAN

SEEKING prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu's victory as a green light for speeding up settlement activity in east Jerusalem, the Elad settlement group has moved a Jewish family into a home Elad purchased in the City of David section of Silwan.

This move is the first expansion of the original effort to move Jewish families into the Arab village over four years ago, during the final months of the last Likud government. Eleven Jewish families moved in then, sparking international criticism. The recent addition brings the total to 12.

Neighbors said the Jewish family moved in just hours after Netanyahu's victory was predicted on Thursday.

"When I came back from work on Thursday, my children ran up to me screaming 'the Jews with their guns have moved into the neighbor's home,'" Ahmed Abassi said.

Several other Arab families reported receiving eviction notices Thursday and Friday from Elad attorney Eitan Gevah, according to Silwan mukhtar Lutfi Siam. They included the Abu Nasser and Ghudeh families, according to Siam.

David Be'eri, head of Elad, said, "Until now we have been working quietly, purchasing land and homes and waiting for the

right time to begin moving families into the homes.

"We are hoping that Netanyahu's victory will allow us to move many more families into the homes we have already purchased," he said.

Be'eri said that while the family moved in just after the elections, the groundwork had been laid for this beforehand when several single group members moved into the home, which is surrounded by a high fence and Arab homes.

Elad claims to own over half of the homes and land in the City of David section of Silwan, which Arab residents call Wadi Hilweh, as well as other properties elsewhere in east Jerusalem purchased over the past several years.

Danny Seidmann, an attorney for the Peace Now-affiliated Ir Shalem group, charged that much of the property purchased was bought with money obtained by Elad and other settlement groups under the previous Likud government, and which a Justice Ministry investigation later found was wrongly given to the groups.

Seidmann based his allegations against the settlement groups on the Klugman Report, the investigation of the east Jerusalem settlement effort under the previous

Likud government that found widespread wrongdoing, but which did not result in concrete action.

"For the past four years, I have been told by senior officials in the government that we shouldn't do anything about the illegal money and land obtained by east Jerusalem settlement groups," Seidmann said. "Now, we see the results."

Be'eri declined to say from whom the home just moved into was purchased, out of concern that it would put the family in danger with fellow Palestinians.

"Let me just say that all the legal efforts against us over the past few years have come to nothing. Everything we did was legal," he stated.

Palestinian sources said the home was owned by the family of Ayoub Krayin, who died two years ago. Elad claimed ownership of the home about a year ago, and since then Arab tenants have lived in it.

Elad also has a plan to build 200 homes for Jewish families on land it owns in Silwan, just outside the Dung Gate of the Old City, and the site of the archeological remains of the ancient City of David.

Peace Now has scheduled a tour of Silwan and a meeting with Arab residents today.

Netanyahu: Likud will have to wait until partners get portfolios

SARAH HONIG

PRIME minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu advised Likud politicians yesterday not to be impatient about their portfolios, which will not be allocated until after he finishes handing out appointments to the Likud's coalition partners.

Netanyahu was speaking following a meeting with the Likud coalition negotiating teams, which reported to him on the various parties' demands.

Sources around Netanyahu say he will have formed his coalition by June 17, when the new Knesset meets for its first session. But the Likud warned prospective coalition partners that their demands, especially basic legislation giving official sanction to the status quo on religious affairs, are problematic and probably unacceptable to the Likud.

Tension in the Likud over who will get what portfolio neared the boiling point yesterday. It has reportedly already resulted in a near rift with Ariel Sharon, who has not yet heard from Netanyahu.

Sources close to Sharon said last night that he would rather stay out of the government than accept anything less than the finance portfolio.

Yesterday, Sharon visited various hassidic courts in Bnei Brak to express thanks for the haredi community's support of Netanyahu's candidacy. In so doing, Sharon underscored his claim that he had largely mobilized haredi support.

The haredi parties reportedly support Sharon's drive for the Finance Ministry. They remember how he met their needs when he was in the Housing Ministry, it was said. Sharon himself, however, maintained a strict silence.

Gesh's David Levy, who is assured of the foreign affairs portfolio, said that "it is not right to keep Sharon in the dark like this."

But this had little effect on Netanyahu. He exhorted MKs Dan Meridor and Michael Eitan to finish drawing up the coalition guidelines in two days.

Netanyahu asked his negotiators to "keep in mind what our priorities are. We were elected because of our policy line. This makes the coalition guidelines far more important than the portfolios. First we deal with matters of principle — that which really matters."

The issue of possibly anchoring the religious status quo in Basic Law legislation, however, frightened the Likud and negotiating team chief MK Moshe Kazav "advised the religious parties not to put on the table demands which it knows that even the Likud — despite its being a party which respects religion and tradition — cannot agree to. No demands should be made which it is clear the other side can not possibly accept." (List of demands, Page 3)

For his part, Netanyahu is unlikely to cross the religious parties if he wants to retain their support — not only for the short haul, but also if he plans to run for re-election.

Shavit: Mossad's role will increase

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

SHABTAI Shavit, who recently resigned from heading the Mossad, said he believes that the role of the Mossad in the New Middle East is likely to increase in scope.

In his first interview since leaving the Mossad on Sunday, Shavit said he left a "well-oiled machine that knows how to deal with the challenges of the future."

Shavit said the role of the Mossad will grow: "While the inner circle in

which we are moving is one of conciliation and acceptance, the outer circle is one of growing threats, which poses many challenges for the Mossad and for the rest of the intelligence community."

Shavit said Iran presents a long-term threat to Israel.

"We will have to deal with this threat because it is not one of religion, but it is a terrorist threat which has made its goal to torpedo the peace process under the guise of Islam," he said.

"I have no doubt that Israel has the capability to deal with these

threats, but I don't think it has to deal with them alone," he added, saying a broad coalition needs to be cobbled together to deal with the threats.

Asked if he is optimistic about the peace process, Shavit replied: "I'm a realist, and that means we have to relate to the peace with caution and intelligence, and not to be drawn out of proportion."

Speaking to military reporters at a memorial ceremony commemorating the fallen of Israel's intelligence community, Shavit said he felt relieved after handing over

authority to Danny Yatom after 33 years of service, including the past seven as head of the intelligence-gathering organization.

The ceremony was attended by senior intelligence heads including Yatom, Ami Ayalon, head of the General Security Service, and Moshe Ya'alon, head of military intelligence, as well as senior military brass and the chief of staff.

President Ezer Weizman, who also attended the ceremony, said: "It's a pity that the citizens of the state of Israel can't hear about the great things and the great contributions that members of the intelligence community have made."

IDF kills youth in Gush Katif

HANNA Abu Alona, 18, of Khan Yunis, was shot and killed last night when he ran towards IDF soldiers at an outpost near the city and failed to heed warnings to stop.

Army officers are investigating. Sources in Gush Katif said the soldiers feared the young man was wearing explosives and so they shot him. They had first warned him twice to stop and fired in the air. The Palestinian Police said last night they were not aware of the incident. (Iftim)

SLA soldier killed in zone

A South Lebanese Army soldier was killed and another wounded when a roadside bomb exploded as they were patrolling in the security zone in Lebanon, security sources reported.

The SLA force was clearing a road to allow the passage of SLA and IDF forces, when the bomb exploded. The attack, near Arabasalem in the security zone, prompted retaliatory fire from IDF artillery, the sources said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombing, but the ambush bore the hallmarks of the Hizbullah. (News agencies)



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'Orient House operating within law'

THE police and General Security Service have periodically investigated allegations of illegal activity at Orient House, and found that for the most part the PLO headquarters is operating within the law, a senior security source said.

The source said that since the passing in December 1994 of special legislation explicitly forbidding Palestinian Authority activity in the capital, Orient House officials have largely stopped work directly connected with the PA.

Faisal Hussein, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem who runs Orient House, also personally promised Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal that the PA activity would stop, while other operations of the headquarters — as coordinating office for the multilateral talks and as a Palestinian political center —

BILL HUTMAN

continued. "I don't see the new government being able to follow through on its threat to close Orient House," the source said.

The source emphasized that there have been violations of the understanding between Hussein and Shahal, but that they were few and corrected soon after the government threatened to take action.

Sources close to Mayor Ehud Olmert said Orient House continues to operate as a PA center. The sources said PA ministries have officials that work out of Orient House. Jibril Rajoub, a senior PA security official, also has a representative at Orient House, the sources said.

The mayor, however, appears to have somewhat backtracked on his stance regarding Orient House since the election. Before, he and other Likud leaders, were calling for the headquarters to be closed. This week, Olmert said he would be satisfied if Orient House only stops its illegal activity.

Rami Tabboub, a senior adviser to Hussein, said the prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu had no basis for closing Orient House, and if he did he would likely derail the peace process.

"The Orient House has been the headquarters of the Palestinian negotiating team since the Madrid Conference," Tabboub said. "It was under the Likud government of Yitzhak Shamir that the Orient House received its license to operate."

Netanyahu holds talks with Bassiouny

PRIME minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu understands the centrality of Egypt to the peace process, Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny said yesterday after holding his second meeting with Netanyahu in the last four days.

It appears that Egypt has been nervous about Netanyahu's regional view due to the fact that Netanyahu has held no less than six meetings with the Jordanian leadership. This has irritated relations between Cairo and Amman.

Earlier this week, Netanyahu's top foreign policy aide, Dore Gold, made a quiet trip to meet with Jordan's King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan before yesterday's Akaba summit between Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and Palestinian

DAVID MAKOVSKY

Authority President Yasser Arafat.

In an interview last night, Bassiouny said, "President Mubarak is the center of this circle for achieving the comprehensive peace. I do believe that Mr. Netanyahu understands this and the crucial role of Egypt. I do believe we are talking with him frankly and honestly."

Mubarak is to attend a summit over the weekend in Jidda with Syrian President Hafez Assad and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd. Assad has refused to meet with Arafat for many years and severed personal ties with Hussein after the Jordanian monarch reached a peace treaty with Israel in 1994.

A spokesman for Netanyahu said after the meeting with Bassiouny that Mubarak sent the new leader a "favorable" message, expressing willingness to help Netanyahu in advancing on all of the peace tracks.

Immediately upon his victory, Netanyahu accepted an invitation from Mubarak to visit Cairo after he forms a government. In 1992, as a gesture of Egypt's significance in the region, then-prime minister Yitzhak Rabin visited Cairo within a week of establishing his new government, before he visited the US.

The Egyptian invitation to Netanyahu is a departure from Mubarak's approach to dealing with Netanyahu's Likud predecessor

Yitzhak Shamir. During the six years of Shamir's premiership, Mubarak refused to meet with him, charging that the Likud leader was not interested in advancing the peace process and Mubarak would not meet him just to have a "cup of coffee."

Meanwhile, Netanyahu phoned Omani Foreign Minister Yusef Bin-Alawi yesterday, and, according to Netanyahu's aides, both officials pledged to deepen the bilateral relationship. Prime Minister Shimon Peres visited Oman two months ago. Later in the day, Omani leader Sultan Qaboos phoned Netanyahu and stressed the need for cooperation between the two countries.

Netanyahu's aides also spoke to a top official of Mauritania yesterday.



Shoppers yesterday look through prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu's book, 'A Place in the Sun,' at one of the many stands set up for Hebrew Book Week in Rabin Square in Tel Aviv. (Remer)

More Palestinians allowed in

THE government has further eased the closure on Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, allowing a total of some 32,000 Palestinian laborers back to their jobs in Israel.

As of yesterday, 10,000 Palestinians from the West Bank and 12,000 from the Gaza Strip were issued permits to work in Israel. The army said that only married

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Palestinian men 35 years old and up would be allowed in, and these would be given permits on an individual basis.

The army also said that it was allowing 350 Palestinian merchants into Israel as a further step to ease the closure.

The government started relax-

ing the closure immediately after the elections and allowed over 10,000 workers over the age of 39 to return over the weekend. It also started letting the Karni crossing operate.

Meanwhile, the IDF yesterday arrested five Palestinians in the Ramallah region on suspicion of being members of Hamas, the army said.

Former CIA chief says US won't change strategic plan

STEVE RODAN

FORMER CIA chief James Woolsey says the US will not change its strategic relationship with Israel in the wake of the election of Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu as prime minister.

"There may be some adjustments, but I think that by this time the relationship between Israel and the US won't change," Woolsey told *The Jerusalem Post* in a telephone interview from Washington. "The relationship is healthy enough, not only in the military realm, but also in the political and other areas."

"The relationship is sound and rooted in many things," he added. Woolsey, who served as CIA director under President Bill Clinton from 1993 to 1995, said the American people and government respect the results of the Israeli elections and see the change in leadership as an exercise in democracy.

He referred to Taiwan, which recently held its first free elections, saying that the move increased support for the Asian country among the American people.

Woolsey said he believes the Clinton administration will continue to push much of the strategic agenda with Israel promoted during the previous Labor government. He cited cooperation in ballistic missile defense.

"This is a very important area for both Israel and the US," he said. "It may point the way for us to do more."

On the prospects of advancing a US defense alliance with Israel, a priority for outgoing Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Woolsey was less certain. He said that the alliance would have to be an Israeli initiative.

"I think most Americans would be open to that if Israel was relatively unified on it and enthusiastic," Woolsey said. "Most Americans might go back and forth on this issue but I think in the end most of them will come around to it."

Woolsey was in Israel in April with a delegation of former US military commanders. He recalled the divisions among the Israeli public on political and security issues, suggesting that this confused many American visitors.

"We have a certain hesitancy to get involved, to take sides," he said. "Americans are more comfortable when Israelis are more or less united on the big issues. I think that the elections reflected a great deal of splits and disagreements on such things as the peace process and the Golan Heights."

Domb, Harel leaving settlement council

HERB KEINON

AHARON Domb, the spokesman of one of the central figures in the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, will be leaving the council in July and hopes to set up a school for communications.

Domb said that he is leaving the post he held for nearly four years for personal reasons, and not because of any disagreements with the council. He resigned earlier this year, but retracted after it was interpreted as signaling an ideological split in the council. Domb is considered to be a moderate voice on the council, and was the architect of its campaign on behalf of prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu.

Domb's resignation from the council is just the beginning of a re-organization that the election of Netanyahu has made necessary. The council has spearheaded the opposition to the government for the last four years, and will have to redefine its purpose.

In this vein, the council yesterday announced that its chairman, Yehuda Harel, will be leaving his post after 15 years, and that elections for that position will take place in about two weeks.

Council officials say that Har-

el's leaving is a "mutual decision," and has "more than a little to do" with meetings he had with Palestinian Authority members last year. Harel, along with Uri Eilitzur and Eliezer Waldman, held secret talks with members of the Palestinian Authority, a move widely censured by settlement leaders.

In yesterday's meeting the council also congratulated Netanyahu on his victory, calling for an end to the construction freeze in the settlements, and a return to the development town status many of the settlements enjoyed before Labor came to power in 1992.

In a related development, Aharon Tzur, of Moshav Ganei Tal, was elected as head of the Gush Katif Regional Council on Monday. He will succeed Zvi Hendel, who won a seat in the Knesset on the National Religious Party list.

Tzur, 46, beat his challenger, Avner Shimoni, by seven votes, out of 1,600 that were cast. Tzur is one of the founders of Gush Katif, and has previously served as the treasurer of Ganei Tal and a number of other settlements in the region.

Husseini wants world support against new government

HILLEL KUTLER
WASHINGTON

THE international community must move forcefully if prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu takes steps that prejudice Palestinian claims in the final status negotiations, PA official Faisal Hussein said here yesterday.

The Palestinians had been urged to keep a low profile when their interests were threatened lest Labor lose the election, but now "soft words, diplomatic words" are not enough, he said.

"This new government is trying to go far from what we want and what we dream ... and some are saying we will face disaster. I believe that maybe it is not such a disaster. Maybe we can face Mr. Netanyahu of the Likud even more effectively than before," Hussein said at a luncheon forum of the American Committee on Jerusalem, a coalition of Arab-American organizations.

"I believe the world will listen to us [when Netanyahu tries to take] steps which can destroy the peace process," he continued. "I hope now the world will start listening to us and see the danger that is coming to us."

Husseini later said he is "not pessimistic, not optimistic" about the new regime and would welcome a meeting with Netanyahu. He also said he doesn't think Netanyahu will try to close Orient House.

"I believe if he wants to continue the peace process, he can't come and close the symbol of this peace process. Closing the Orient House means that he is deciding about the future of east Jerusalem," he told reporters.

UN warns against danger of cutting funds to Palestinians

PRIME minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu's campaign pledges to cut back or eliminate tax transfers to the Palestinian Authority, combined with his stated opposition to US aid to the PA would, if enacted, sharply increase the PA's growing deficit.

UN officials estimate that no less than 60% of the PA's \$432 million in revenues comes from Israeli tax revenue transfers such as VAT and customs duties on direct imports.

While Terje Larsen, UN special coordinator for the territories, stressed that he is encouraged by Netanyahu's affirmation of the peace process, he said it was crucial that the PA obtain all funds which are due. If taxation transfers and US aid are not forthcoming, he said, "the PA will collapse."

"The Palestinians are critically dependent upon an open labor market in Israel as well as obtaining transfers and continued donor assistance," Larsen said. "Without funds, [PA leader Yasser] Arafat would not have the money needed to run basic health and education services, as well as his own security apparatus."

The PA projected a \$75 million deficit this year, but this was

BACKGROUND
DAVID MAKOVSKY

based upon projections of 35,000 Palestinian laborers working in Israel and a 6% growth in GNP. Because of the extended closure that barred workers from entering Israel, officials say the deficit for the first six months alone will be at least \$100m, and could be as much as \$180m.

Netanyahu charged during the campaign that the money provided to the Palestinians was not all tax transfers but was actually a hidden subsidy.

Moreover, US aid to the PA may now be reduced. Both Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres consistently prodded the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the pro-Israel lobbying group, to press for an annual \$75 million in US assistance despite opposition of Congressional conservatives, with some of this aid funding the PA's operating costs.

But sources say the signals from Jerusalem to AIPAC could be very different under a Netanyahu government, even though a June 15th report from President Bill Clinton to the Congress is

expected to emphasize major strides made by the PA in cracking down on terrorism perpetrated by Islamic extremists.

In a meeting with visiting Republican congressmen last year, Netanyahu urged them not to provide assistance to the PA. In a speech last year to the Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based conservative think-tank, Netanyahu made clear that he believed that a preferable course would be to organize private sector projects to create jobs for Palestinians in Gaza.

There are some signs, however, that the most immediate crunch may be eased. A decision was made to increase the number of Palestinian workers allowed into Israel from 7,000 to 25,000. All those being allowed in are married and over 35 years old.

Furthermore, the Finance Ministry is quietly planning to provide a NIS 90m. shekel "advance" against impending tax receipts.

On Friday, Arafat is expected to discuss the PA's financial problems at a meeting in Gaza with representatives of 30 donor countries as well as delegates of the UN, International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank.

Ma'aleh Adumim mayor unveils plans for Greater Jerusalem

HERB KEINON

TWO separate calls to annex settlements were heard yesterday: one from Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel calling for the extension of Israeli sovereignty over the "Greater Jerusalem settlements," and the other from Jordan Valley settlement heads calling for the annexation of their region.

Kashriel unveiled a plan at a Jerusalem press conference yesterday for a Greater Jerusalem supra-municipality that would incorporate Jerusalem, Ma'aleh Adumim, Givat Ze'ev, Efrat, Beitar, Har Adar, and Mevasseret Yerushalayim.

Under the plan, to be submitted to the new government when it is formed, the supra-municipality would coordinate policy on matters such as roads, sewage, security, and garbage.

Each of the communities,

however, would remain independent entities and not become neighborhoods of the capital. This would enable them to "retain their individuality," Kashriel said.

"The goal of the plan," Kashriel said, "is to extend Israeli sovereignty over Greater Jerusalem."

The plan would save money, he said, since the communities could share resources instead of each one maintaining its own security and emergency services.

"This would also stop the emigration from Jerusalem," he added, "since much of the emigration is to these communities."

The plan would also solve the problem Jerusalem has of land reserves for development by putting at the city's disposal tens

of thousands of dunams from these outlying communities, he said.

Under the plan, the representatives of the supra-municipality would either be directly elected by the residents or by the representatives of each individual council. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert has not approved the plan.

Meanwhile, the heads of the Jordan Valley settlements sent a letter to prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday reminding him of pre-election promises he had made to annex their region.

The letter recommends that the following be included in the government's guidelines: "The government will initiate legislation that will establish Israeli sovereignty over the whole Jordan Valley region."

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Religious parties produce joint coalition demands

HERB KEINON

BELOW are the coalition demands that will be presented by the religious parties - Shas, the National Religious Party, and United Torah Judaism - in their coalition talks with the Likud. The following principles were drawn up in meetings earlier this week between the three parties.

- Institutionalizing the status quo on religious affairs through a basic law, and rolling back the status quo to what it was prior to the 1992 elections.
- Amending the law on conversion so that Reform conversions can not be carried out in Israel.
- Drawing up legislation that would effectively bar the representatives of the Reform and Conservative movements from serving on the country's religious councils.

- Extending the law preventing the import of nonkosher meat.
- Amending the Antiquities Law so that there will be no excavations of ancient cemeteries without the consent of the rabbinate.
- Putting a halt to abortions for socioeconomic reasons.
- Stopping the running of buses before Shabbat has ended.
- Enforcing the laws against the opening of businesses on Shabbat.
- Closing Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan to traffic on Shabbat.
- Establishing a religious/haredi radio station.
- Granting a broadcasting license to Arutz 7.
- Making no changes in the new electoral system without the consent of the religious parties.

'Changing abortion law would not reduce unwanted pregnancies'

ESTHER HECHT

TIGHTENING the screws on women who seek to end unwanted pregnancies will not reduce the number of abortions; it will merely force them to pay for the operation on the private market, according to Joanne Zack-Pakes, director of Shilo, a voluntary pregnancy advisory center in Jerusalem.

Zack-Pakes was responding to demands by the religious parties to curtail legal abortions. Today, abortions are legal in only four cases: if the woman is under 17 or over 40; if the pregnancy results from relations punishable under criminal law, like rape or incest, or from relations not sanctioned by marriage; if the fetus is likely to be defective physically or mentally; or if continuing the pregnancy is likely to endanger the woman's life or cause her physical or emotional harm.

A fifth case, the so-called "socioeconomic clause," was abolished in 1979, in response to religious-party demands, when the Likud first came to power. But the following year, the number of abortions remained unchanged, Zack-Pakes said.

"If you limit access to [legal] abortion, it doesn't mean the woman will choose to continue the pregnancy. It means she will go to the private market. She'll borrow money everywhere to get it," she said.

According to Zack-Pakes, to reduce the number of abortions "we have to reduce the number of unplanned or unwanted pregnancies, by investing in sexuality education, in family planning counseling within the medical-service community."

Alice Shalvi, chairperson of the Israel Women's Network, a nonpartisan women's lobby, called on the incoming government to include contraceptive devices in the basket of services provided under the National Health Law.

In a sharply worded letter to prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu, Na'amat chairperson Ofra Friedman warned that a coalition of 30 women's organizations representing 50 percent of the population was prepared to fight anyone seeking to harm them. The head of the working women's organization said women would keep them from invading our "wombs, our plates or our beds."

Amirs' conspiracy trial opens

RAINE MARCUS

ASSASSIN Yigal Amir's notorious smile was seen again in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday, as his trial opened on charges of conspiring since 1993 to murder the late Yitzhak Rabin, illegal possession of arms, and conspiring to hurt Arabs and damage their property.

Amir, who in late March was sentenced to life imprisonment for killing Rabin had six years for wounding GSS agent Yoram Rubin. He is now being tried on these other charges together with his brother Haggai and Dror Adani. If convicted on all counts, each could receive 50 years' imprisonment.

The hearing began with the judges' unanimous decision that Haggai Amir's confessions to the police and the security service were admissible evidence.

Amir's lawyer, Moshe Meroz, had insisted that his client's confessions were extracted under pressure. Meroz argued that his client had been subjected to sleep deprivation and had been cuffed and chained for long periods of time. The lawyer added that interrogators had threatened to blow up the Amir family's house if he did not confess.

However, the panel of three judges - Amnon Stasnov, Shelley Timen and Ze'ev Hammer - said they had not "discovered anything concrete in the defendant's claims" and that physical pressure had not been applied in obtaining evidence.

Haggai Amir himself had said that though he had expected to be beaten, he was not, the judges said. He had been incarcerated in a windowless cell that was only one meter square, but he did not complain about his treatment to his brother Yigal or to Adani, when he met them in custody, the judges noted.

Yesterday, welder Ya'acov Tikochinsky, who made a silencer for Haggai Amir, testified for the prosecution. Tikochinsky said he had manufactured a silencer out of a metal pipe and rod for Amir,



Yigal Amir (right), his brother Haggai Amir (left) and Dror Adani (second from left) in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday, as their trial opened on charges of conspiracy to murder Yitzhak Rabin. (Reuters)

but had no idea what it would be used for. Two IDF officers also testified that Amir had asked them for an M16 rifle, telling them that he needed it because he lived in the territories.

Defense lawyers said they would summon Avishai Raviv, the founder of the extremist Eyal organization and a former GSS informer, to testify after the prosecution had finished presenting its case. They also said they planned to summon Margalit Har-Shefi and former GSS heads Ya'acov Perry and Karmi Gilfon.

The trial will resume on June 12.

Aloni: Elections a victory for Amir

COMMUNICATIONS Minister Shulamit Aloni (Meretz) said yesterday that Yitzhak Rabin's assassin, Yigal Amir, had won a victory, having fulfilled his aim to "replace the government."

But she added, following a lecture to Tel Aviv University law students, that she did not believe that any government would ever release Amir, who is serving a life sentence plus six years for Rabin's murder.

After a hearing yesterday in Tel Aviv District Court, Yigal Amir's attorney Shmuel Fleishman said his client had voted for Binyamin Netanyahu and had cast his Knesset vote for the National

Religious Party. "My client says that now all those who were afraid to testify for him previously will not be afraid to come forward," Fleishman said.

He added that Amir is happy with the election results. Aloni spoke to the students about Judaism and Humanitarianism, quoting the Bible throughout her lecture to emphasize the paramount importance of law and justice in Jewish history.

"The importance of justice and fair trial, especially to the underdogs and the weak, is evident all through the Bible," she said. R.M.

Demo held against plans to privatize IBA

DEMONSTRATORS carrying placards saying "Haim Ya'avin - have no fear" and "Motti Kirschenbaum - don't give in," gathered outside Television House in Jerusalem yesterday to protest against the new government's announced intentions to privatize the Israel Broadcasting Authority.

The Likud often complained of biased coverage during the election campaign, and various IBA staffers, including director-general Kirschenbaum, are considered targets for dismissal under any reorganization.

"We came to show our solidarity and support for the IBA and its workers," said Erez Fridman, the rally's organizer and parliamentary aide to MK Dalia Itzik (Labor). Funding for the rally was provided by the New Israel Fund.

"We are scared of the threat to the nature of Israeli society and

fear the dangers hanging over the democracy here. We cannot just stand on the sidelines and look on," Fridman said.

The protesters chanted slogans including "The press is the watchdog of democracy; don't pull out its teeth."

MK Limor Livnat (Likud), who is seeking the Communications portfolio, dismissed the fears and said the demonstration was a political one by the Left, which had been frustrated in the elections.

"Privatization will benefit the public by increasing the number of channels and will improve the democratic nature of the country by preventing a situation where [the IBA] could serve as a mouthpiece for the government. We didn't hide our plans for privatization and we were still elected only last week. Presumably this is what the voters want," Livnat said. Lia Collins

Media watchdog group calls on IBA heads to resign

ISRAEL'S Media Watch called yesterday for the dismissal of Israel Broadcasting Authority director-general Mordechai Kirschenbaum, television and radio division heads Yair Stern and Amnon Nadav, and legal adviser Amitz Schechter over alleged violations of a ban on campaign propaganda 60 days before the elections.

The right-wing, independent group, which brought 60 specific violations to the attention of the IBA, said its complaints and questions went unanswered.

"The IBA has closed itself from criticism by only using an internal monitoring committee which tends to cover up complaints," explained Media Watch's director, Yisrael Medad. "They simply have not been following the law."

Medad said the Likud was "justified" in its recent accusations against the IBA, adding that "it's clear from the facts that the media has a bias in favor of the Left."

Media Watch's chairman, Eli Pollak, said the alleged violations are generally not the fault of individual journalists.

"Most of them are doing the best job they can do," he said. "The problem starts with their

YOCHI DREAZEN

bosses and the orders they give."

Some of the specific violations mentioned by the group include:

- An episode of *Popolitika* from April 1st, in which Minister Yossi Beilin told the show's anchor, Dan Margalit: "We are bringing the country to peace." Although Margalit warned Beilin that stating campaign propaganda was illegal, he proceeded to ask Beilin's position on the final-status talks.
- Another *Popolitika*, 22 days

before the elections, in which Binyamin Netanyahu and Shimon Peres were given half an hour each to explain their campaign platforms.

• A *Mabar* episode from May 21st, in which Gil Sadan allowed Israeli Arab leaders Mustafa Jamal and Ahmed Tibi to call on Arabs to vote for Peres. The group recommended that the Knesset appoint an outside committee, with disciplinary powers, to look into complaints against the media. Such committees currently operate in Great Britain and France.

Women suggest Blumenthal for Knesset speaker

TWO women yesterday called for MK Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) to be appointed Knesset speaker, placing an advertisement in yesterday's *Ha'aretz* that read: "When there are no women in the Knesset we must have a female speaker."

The ad was signed by Prof. Rahel Alterman and Dina Beniker, former chairwoman of the National Council for the Status of Women.

The number of female MKs has dropped from 12 to nine, said Beniker, a deputy rector of Bar-Ilan University.

"The new Knesset comprises only 7.5 percent women even though women form 50% of the population," she told Israel Radio. "If there are not enough women,

LIAT COLLINS

at least we must support those who are there. Naomi Blumenthal is deserving of the position from the point of view of her capabilities and sensitivities. She is a very caring person, well-liked by all types of the population," Beniker said. "She will be able to bring prestige to the position. We wouldn't have suggested [her] if she were not a suitable and capable candidate."

The Israel Women's Network, Na'amat, Wizo and Emunah yesterday issued a joint statement, calling on prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu to appoint women to key positions - as senior ministers, chairwomen of

committees or as Knesset speaker. Blumenthal said she would be interested in the speaker's position but had not considered applying for it until it was suggested to her by others.



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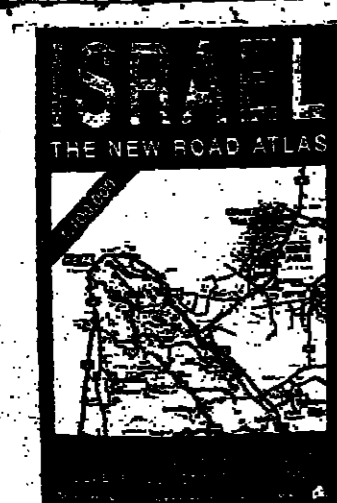
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War crimes court president blasts failure to arrest suspects

THE Yugoslav war crimes tribunal's president says the international community has given future tyrants a "license to kill" by failing to arrest indicted war crimes suspects.

In an outline of a speech released yesterday, Italian judge Antonio Cassese also said that failure to arrest indicted Bosnian Serb leaders threatens free elections scheduled for September in Bosnia.

"Fair and free elections are said to be the key to a lasting peace in Bosnia, and they will not be possible in an environment polluted by alleged war criminals," according to the outline.

The comments are to be delivered next week in Florence at a conference discussing the implementation of the Dayton peace agreement. The remarks are the harshest tribunal criticism yet of the failure to arrest war crimes suspects indicted by the UN court. During talks in Geneva on

MIKE CORDER
THE HAGUE

Sunday, no agreement was reached about ousting Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic from office and having him arrested.

Karadzic and his army commander, Ratko Mladic, both have been indicted for genocide twice.

So far the war crimes court, the first since World War II, has only been able to arrest lower-ranking war crimes suspects such as Bosnian Serb bar owner Dusan Tadic, currently on trial here for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Under the Dayton peace accords, the primary responsibility for arresting indicted suspects lies with local police, but the NATO-led peace implementation force also has said it will arrest any suspects it comes across during its regular duties.

The outline of Cassese's speech

was released as he met senior officials of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's government in Belgrade to discuss cooperation with the tribunal.

Milosevic is seen as a key component in international efforts to force Karadzic and Mladic out of office and into custody.

Milosevic has said the Serbian constitution bars extradition of Serbian citizens, adding that he can't extradite Bosnian Serb suspects because they are foreign nationals.

Establishing the tribunal "and at the same time preventing it from fulfilling its mandate amounts to the issuance of a license to kill for future tyrants," Cassese's prepared remarks said.

The tribunal was set up by the UN Security Council in 1993 without its own police force to arrest indicted suspects.

Of 58 war crimes suspects so far indicted, just six are in custody. (AP)



Rambhau Swamiji, a Hindu holy man, grimaces as he has a 'fire bath' on the concluding day of a mass prayer called a yagna in Bombay. Swamiji sat inside a specially constructed pit surrounded by flames for 2 hours every day during the 27-day yagna organized for the good of all mankind. (Reuters)

Hundreds riot in Tangier, 22 arrested

TANGIER, Morocco (Reuters) - Moroccan police arrested 22 people yesterday after a riot in the northern city of Tangier where hundreds of people set fire to one bank and ransacked another, police sources and eyewitnesses said.

The riot coincided with a general strike, which paralyzed much of the country's economic activity.

"We have arrested 22 people, including two minors, after they set fire to the Societe Generale des Banques du Maroc and ransacked Banque Populaire," a police spokesman said.

Eyewitnesses said the Societe Generale branch was completely gutted in the fire in a poor district of Bni Makada in Tangier, which was hit by serious rioting in December 1990 during another general strike.

The rioters, who reportedly said their action was a protest against the government's social policy, forced their way into the Banque Populaire branch in Tangier. They took out documents and furniture and set fire to them outside, the eyewitnesses said.

Police confirmed the incidents but a spokesman said he did not know if the rioters were members of the two unions which called Wednesday's strike.

There were no other incidents reported in other major towns or cities. Riot police were called in to reinforce security in the financial center of Casablanca.

It was the first general strike since 1990, when 44 people were killed in riots which were put down by security forces in the central city of Fez and in Tangier, 280 km north of Rabat.

Ciller party poised to bring down Turkish government

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkish coalition ally Tansu Ciller's party announced yesterday it was to join the Islamist opposition in a censure vote against Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz that is likely to topple the secularist government.

"A unanimous decision has been taken to vote for the censure motion," Ibrahim Yasar Dedelek, a senior member of Ciller's True Path Party (DYP) told reporters after a party meeting.

Parliament is to debate the motion, tabled by the Islamist Welfare Party, today and vote on Saturday.

The minority conservative alliance, split for months by pub-

lic squabbling that has boosted the powerful Islamists, will stand little chance of surviving if the vote is passed.

"Giving a censure motion against our partner is unpleasant but Mr. Yilmaz is not behaving in a manner befitting partnership," a DYP deputy quoted Ciller as telling the closed-doors party meeting.

Her wing of the coalition and Welfare have the parliamentary strength between them to carry the vote against Yilmaz. But Yilmaz, speaking during a visit to Brussels shortly before the True Path decision was announced, urged relations with administration could stay on its feet.

"I still expect the majority of parliament will reconsider the consequences of their vote and act accordingly." He said "various contacts will take place" between his Motherland Party (ANAP) and the other parliamentary groups before the vote.

He said he had not yet approached bitter rival Ciller to plead for her backing, but would not rule it out. "There is no appointment yet but that doesn't mean it can't happen."

The government infighting has impaired Turkey's ability to deal with a 12-year-old Kurdish rebel insurgency, tense relations with neighbor Greece and economic woes.

IRA casts new cloud on peace efforts

BELFAST (Reuters) - IRA guerrillas cast new gloom over Anglo-Irish efforts to drive forward Northern Ireland peace efforts yesterday, declaring that they would not hand over arms before an agreed settlement.

BBC radio quoted a senior Irish Republican Army source as saying that "the IRA will not be decommissioning its weapons through either the front or the back door... The organization will never leave [Irish] nationalist areas defenseless this side of a final settlement."

Britain and its Protestant Unionist majority supporters in the province insist that the Irish extremists, who broke a 17-month truce with a wave of London bombs in February, must give up armories of weapons to prove they and their Sinn Fein political wing are committed to peace.

The BBC report coincided with attempts by Britain and Ireland to find a way around an impasse overshadowing talks due to start next Monday.

Britain and Ireland, its partner in a two-year peace quest, agree that Sinn Fein will be refused a seat in the talks unless the IRA restores its cease-fire.

British leader John Major and Irish Prime Minister John Bruton were expected to put the final touches later yesterday to a new formula, covering the disarmament issue and other key agenda items, in a bid to create conditions to coax the IRA to declare a new truce.

But the BBC said the source reasserted that the chances of a new cease-fire before Monday were "remote in the extreme."

Czech leaders scramble for compromise in coalition talks

PRAGUE (AP) - President Vaclav Havel held another round of talks with top parliamentary leaders yesterday, scrambling for compromise in forming a minority government.

The center-right three-party coalition of Premier Vaclav Klaus narrowly lost its parliamentary majority in weekend elections, leaving a minority government and substantial compromise with the opposition Social Democrats led by Milos Zeman as the likely way forward.

Zeman, whose party leaped from 24 seats to 61 seats in the elections, cannot form his own government because he lacks enough allies.

Unreformed communists and the xenophobic Republicans, the remaining parliamentary parties, are unacceptable to both mainstream groups.

Tuesday's talks produced tentative agreement that the current coalition of Klaus' Civic Democratic

Party, the Christian Democrats and the Civic Democratic Alliance should continue to rule, sharing top parliamentary posts with the Social Democrats.

"The emotions are not so heated any more," Christian Democratic leader Josef Lux, one of the crucial power-brokers, told Czech television Tuesday night.

Zeman and Klaus, colleagues in the Prague economic community of the 1970s, are bitter personal rivals. Zeman initially indicated he wanted Klaus dumped as prime minister before considering any cooperation.

But after talks with Havel on Wednesday, Zeman indicated he would not necessarily veto Klaus' premiership if he gained other concessions.

These include reform of the current welfare system, a revision of pension funds and decentralization of power to give more authority to an unspecified number of regions.

Tutsi-led army blames Hutus for Red Cross killings

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (AP) - The International Red Cross said yesterday that it was suspending operations in this African nation because unidentified gunmen killed three Swiss workers.

The men were ambushed Tuesday as they were returning to Bujumbura after distributing water and medical supplies in northwestern Burundi. Gunmen sprayed machinegun fire on their four-wheel drive vehicle, marked with the Red Cross emblem.

Burundi's Tutsi-dominated military blamed Hutu extremists for the shootings.

"We are in disbelief," said Robin Deberri, a spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Nairobi, Kenya.

"It has happened before, but this is the worst incident in years."

In Geneva, Red Cross spokesman Rolin Wavre said the organization was temporarily suspending its operations in Burundi, but he did not say how long.

Mrs. Abiola buried amid grief, anger in Nigeria

LAGOS (Reuters) - The murdered wife of detained Nigerian presidential claimant Moshood Abiola was buried in Lagos yesterday, amid wailing and the chanting of angry political slogans.

In the western city of Ibadan, police broke up demonstrations by students seeking to lead thousands of people in protest against the killing, residents said. The authorities also closed Ibadan university.

Kudirat Abiola, senior wife of the detained politician, was shot in the head at close range while driving along a Lagos street on Tuesday.

She was prominent in the campaign calling for the release of her husband.

Deputy Inspector Wayne Bax said police had received a number of anonymous tips and phone calls reporting that the victim had a confrontation with a young man.

"We feel there are a number of witnesses out there who can not only identify the victim, but describe what happened," Bax said. "We believe there was a confrontation which may have drawn people's attention."

A NY nightmare: Woman severely beaten in Central Park

NEW YORK (AP) - A New York nightmare recurred, this time in broad daylight, when a young woman was beaten and left bleeding and unconscious near a playground in Central Park.

The woman, found Tuesday afternoon by a passer-by, was in critical condition early yesterday and still had not been identified.

The 5-foot-2 (1.58m), 110-pound (50-kilogram) victim, who appeared to be in her 20s, had no identification on her when she was found amid shrubs and rocks just off a pedestrian path, Police Commissioner Howard Safir said.

She was bleeding heavily from head wounds, and had trouble breathing when she was taken to the hospital, a source told The Associated Press. She also suffered several fractures.

At a news conference yesterday, Deputy Inspector Wayne Bax said police had received a number of anonymous tips and phone calls reporting that the victim had a confrontation with a young man.

"We feel there are a number of witnesses out there who can not only identify the victim, but describe what happened," Bax said. "We believe there was a confrontation which may have drawn people's attention."

The crime was being investigated as an attempted rape. But Bax refused to discuss the evidence, nor would he speculate on why no one had come forward to identify the woman.

Police combed the area looking for the attacker or any witnesses, and appealed to the public for help identifying the victim. The site, near 81st Street, is just steps from the fashionable Upper West Side.

Detectives believe she was found soon after being beaten but that rain may have washed away evidence, Safir said.

A motive was not immediately clear. The woman's skirt had been pulled up and her tank top ripped open, police said, but her undergarments were not disturbed.

Last fall, a Brazilian-born jogger was killed in the park, not far from where another jogger was raped and beaten by a gang of teen-agers in 1989. Both of those beatings happened more than two kilometers from Tuesday's attack, at the northern end of the park rarely frequented by tourists. And they were at odd hours, one at night and one at early dawn.

Five youths were convicted in heavily publicized 1989 attack, but no one has been charged in the more recent case.

Safir called the latest attack "an aberration" and insisted the park is safe. Crime has gone down 60 percent in Central Park in the past three years, he said.

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at a very high price to pay for quality to be sure... as long as we are careful not to be swayed by the which air too good to be true... finding herself in urgent need of a trip to the US, R.M. was thrilled to come across a bold Airtour advertisement in *Ma'ariv* on April 26 announcing a special rate on flights to New York. "New York \$555" the ad called out to her in large block letters.

"New York at pre-summer prices," continued the pitch. "Now New York looks better than ever at a price which will not be repeated for a long time. [It would be] disastrous to miss the opportunity! Departures from 1.5 through 30.5. Seven to 60-day duration. All the flights are special on El Al."

At the bottom of the ad, the public is invited to contact any travel agent for full details.

On April 28, R.M. entered the Rejwan Travel Service in Jerusalem to book a May flight on El Al to the Big Apple. After providing the agent with viable dates

CAVEAT EMPTOR
RUTHIE BLUM

for her trip, R.M. took out her checkbook to pay. "No, no," the agent said, "Don't pay for the ticket until I receive confirmation from El Al for a specific flight."

So R.M. returned home, satisfied she'd be going abroad within the next couple of weeks. A few days later, she received a call from the agent confirming her flight and requesting that she "come in by May 5 to pay for the ticket, so as not to lose her reservation."

R.M. insisted that, as she lives outside Jerusalem, she would only be able to come in and pay three days after the date requested by the agent. R.M. kept her promise, and arrived at Rejwan on May 8 with cash payment in hand. "Sorry," she was told. "El Al has canceled the special deal." Luckily, the agent was able to find a similar - albeit not as cheap - deal for this disappointed client on another airline.

THE manager of Rejwan - calling herself simply "Irit" - claimed that the whole mishap could have been avoided had R.M. paid as soon as

she was summoned. "We stressed to this customer that there is a 'time-limit cancellation' on these flights," she said. "This means that without an actual transaction being made, El Al considers a seat available."

However, she did agree that if a newspaper ad boasts discounted flights throughout the month of May, the consumer is being misled. El Al spokesman Nachman Kleiman was unaware of the wording of this particular ad, but explained how these special offers work. According to him different factors, such as the season, and cancellations, enter into the airline's decision to come out with a special sale on international flights.

Competition is another factor. "When Tower Air came out with a pre-summer deal," he said, "we too had to act." A little healthy competition, particularly if it pushes down prices for the consumer, is fine. But how can a "month of May" sale end so abruptly during its first week -

regardless of whether or not R.M. had paid on time?

According to Kleiman, 2,300 seats to New York "were made available for this special sale. We had no idea, nor any way of anticipating, that it was going to be such a big hit. Within days, every single seat was booked."

It is clear that Airtour (the "company uniting all travel agents in Israel") should have been far more careful with the wording of its ad. Equally clear is the need for the unsuspecting consumer to be wary of such enticements. And to heed a travel agent's warnings.

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Two pieces by Dorit Sadeh - simple without being severe. (German-Artist)

A hint of classicism

I'M sick of classical; it all looks the same," declares Michelle, the proprietor of the clothing store around the corner from my home. It's a rather strange statement coming from her, since she herself has always favored a clean, uncluttered look regardless of the trend of the day. She may have a point when it comes to severely tailored suits and dresses, which indeed tend to have more similarities than differences. But clothes which are simple without being severe also come within the category of classic. One only has to look at some of the items in Dorit Sadeh's collection to be convinced.

FLAIR
GREER FAY CASHMAN

once ironclad rules have been broken, it has become acceptable to pair classically cut jackets with fluid skirts or pants, and Sadeh's mix-and-match options make ample allowance for odd coupling that somehow looks just right. Women who have excellent figures to waist level, but who are overly broad in the beam, will appreciate the combination of a classic jacket with flowing pants in a soft fabric. Her long slip dresses with front vent are "declassicized" when worn over a T-shirt, but on their own or teamed with a bolero make charming evening outfits. Considering that she is recognized as one of Israel's better designers, Sadeh's prices are quite reasonable. The most expensive dress in her collection is priced at NIS 950, which is appreciably less than what is being charged for the international designer garments now flooding the market. Most of her garments sell for under NIS 500. It's good to see that despite the

competition, she and other Israeli designers are holding their own, though it's a shame that the responsible body within the Ministry of Industry and Trade is not doing enough to promote the industry. Many visitors to Israel head straight for the nearest Gottex or Gideon Oberson showroom and after completing their purchases there, ask to be taken to some place where they can get a broad swathe of Israeli fashion. Well they're unlikely to find much of it in places such as Kikar Hamedina or Gan Ha'ir. Thank goodness we have shopping malls for the masses where there is some concentration of firms such as Honigman, Castro, Rosh Indiani, Dan Cassidi, Dorin Frankfurt, Matim Li and Lea Toren, who, precisely because of the influx from abroad, have all been forced to upgrade their own designs, though not necessarily their workmanship or the quality of their materials. But if styles continue to maintain their simplicity without any radical change, local firms will have to improve the workmanship as well, because no one wants a timeless garment that falls apart at the seams.

SOME things in life have to be loved not because they are worthy or incomparable or even beguiling, but simply because they are constant. This is why June Cleaver never ran off with the UPS guy, why Dorothy preferred Kansas to Oz and why Cal Ripken is a god.

The roll of a lifetime

It is also why we must love the Tootsie Roll even if it does look like individually wrapped armadillo droppings. The humble Tootsie Roll is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, but you wouldn't know it. In typically Toosiesque fashion, the actual birthday is forgotten, and the company's public-relations machine is either too dim, or too honest just to make one up.

Its idea of hype is to place a microscopic logo on every bag of Tootsie Rolls, proclaiming "100th Anniversary. Low Fat Since 1896." To appreciate the dignity of the Tootsie Roll, the nobility of this fudgy little "log," you have to understand what it was up against, back in 1896.

The year Austrian immigrant Leo Hirschfield introduced his penny candy was the same year Cracker Jack was born. Cracker Jack was everything Tootsie Roll was not: Cracker Jack had multiple personalities - popcorn, peanuts and molasses all clamoring for attention in a box harder to get into than *Finnegans Wake*. Cracker Jack was a brazen self-promoter, full of braggadocio (and never quite enough peanuts). Cracker Jack stole into a beloved song and instigated itself forever into a national pastime. Nobody goes to a baseball game and says, "Buy me some peanuts and Tootsie Rolls..." even though that would make far more sense. Tootsie Roll came without bells and whistles, just... faith. Cracker Jack is even cunning about its own

birthday, claiming seniority because it was introduced at the first World's Fair, in Chicago in 1893, though it didn't actually become Cracker Jack until 1896. Cracker Jack was named by a salesman. Tootsie Roll was named by a doting daddy after his six-year-old daughter. Cracker Jack was invented by a German; Tootsie Roll by an Austrian. Cracker Jack's motto is about glibness: "The more you eat, the more you want." Tootsie Roll embraces restraint: "Lasts a long time." Both confections brag that they have gone to war with American soldiers, and Tootsie Roll chief operating officer Ellen Gordon tells an odd little anecdote about stranded Marines being airdropped Tootsie Rolls during the Korean War and using them to keep warm "by putting them in their clothes and under their arms." Tootsie Rolls are ideal peanut confection companions. Their waxy little brown wrappers slip off noiselessly, and the candy can be popped into the mouth whole and chewed in silence. Plus, taking Tootsie Rolls along while say, invading Normandy would offer the added

protection of an instant natural soldering material should a raft spring a leak.

CRACKER Jack, in the same dangerous circumstances, might have changed the course of history. The Nazis could have heard the pick-pick-picking at Cracker Jack's paper, followed by the frustrated clawing open of the cardboard boxtop, the infernal rattle of popcorn and peanuts shifting all around as anxious fingers dug for the prize, and then the inevitable cries of delight or despair over the treasure inside.

Tootsie Rolls can solve crimes. They hold a fingerprint.

Both companies claim their recipes are secret, and though both companies have toyed with variations over the decades - butter-toffee Cracker Jack, fruit-flavored Tootsie Rolls - the originals have hung on.

Tootsie Roll is more enigmatic. So plain, so true, so Jane Eyre.

What is it inside? Not just chocolate, not quite fudge. More like a mix of brownie batter and window caulk. Endearing nonetheless.

Cracker Jack is easily described. Just popcorn, caramel and peanuts (but not enough of them).

And in this sweet land of liberty, confronted with agonizing choices and tormented values, it is maddening to realize that when you take an unassuming little Tootsie Roll, and you take a sticky fistful of Cracker Jack, to these 100 years after they were born together but of differing different parentage, you can put the Tootsie Roll in your mouth, and you can put the Cracker Jack in your mouth, and you will instantly discover that the Cracker Jack tastes... it tastes... Way better. (The Washington Post)

French chefs fret over loss of traditional dishes

A dozen celebrity chefs have sounded a warning that foreign flavors are polluting the purity of French cooking. These foreign flavors, say the chefs, are threatening traditional dishes that have made France a world leader in the kitchen. "Nowadays, cooking tends to take on an international flavor. We are alarmed to see the tendency among some who want to mix anything with everything on a plate to give the illusion of innovation at any price," they said in a recent joint statement. The chefs, including Georges Blanc, Alain Ducasse, Bernard Loiseau, and Joel Robuchon, called on the authorities and young cooks to return to the basics in French cooking.

They also attempted to spell out what makes excellent cuisine. "A great dish is not a juxtaposition. A great dish is not a hodge-podge. A great dish should abjure neither herbs nor spices," their statement said. "A great dish is evidence of simplicity and harmony of flavors. A great dish draws on its sources and its inspiration from our memory," it said. "In forgetting these simple ideas, France will lose its identity and its cooking. True French cooking draws its strength and legitimacy from our history, our regions, our products and the unique French character," the chefs said. (Reuter)



Joel Robuchon, who calls for a return to basics, at Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda last year. (Isaac Harari)

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The religious parties' demands

THE religious parties' rise in last week's elections was dramatic. The haredi parties now have 14 seats in the Knesset, more than 10 percent of the total. And with the National Religious Party, they control 23 seats, an impressive bloc.

The reason for this is not difficult to fathom. Religious families are larger, and the growth of their percentage in the general population, unless offset by a large secular immigration, is an inevitable development.

But there are four facts which deserve particular attention:

First, the proportion of haredim who overcame their resentment of the secular Zionist state and voted last week was larger than ever; only a handful continued to boycott the elections. This remarkable rate of participation in the country's political life by the very Orthodox and their increased contacts with the secular population can only create better understanding between the religious and the secular.

Second, since the haredim voted for the prime minister as well as for their parties, this election marks the first time in Israel's history that the haredi community voted for a secular candidate. The implied breakthrough cannot be underestimated.

Third, many haredim obviously ignored the advice of the few rabbis who recommended voting for Prime Minister Shimon Peres. His support in haredi neighborhoods was negligible. This, too, implies greater independence and liberalization in the community.

Fourth, for the first time, religious campaign propaganda was directed at secular audiences as well as the Orthodox. No longer content with competing among themselves, the religious appealed to other Israelis to understand what they view as the advantages of a pious life. The NRP, in particular, appealed to secular Israelis in their campaign, and indeed received a substantial

number of secular votes.

That is why it is a pity that the demands the religious parties are making as a condition for joining the government are so egregious as to constitute a reversion to the bad old days. They are, of course, opening positions in a negotiation process. But their lack of moderation and mistaken assessment of reality is a disappointment.

Their demands for a monopoly on membership in the religious councils and the exclusion of Conservative and Reform members are intolerant. But at least they are understandable in terms of political power and patronage. What is far less tolerable is the religious parties' desire to invade the personal domain of the secular. To oppose abortions for non-health reasons, to insist on the observance of the Sabbath in non-religious areas, and to impose rabbinical inspection on archeological digs are unacceptable to the secular majority. It is precisely the kind of meddling in the life of the secular which can only polarize the community.

The guiding principle in the secular-religious relationship should be one of "live and let live." There is no reason why religious neighborhoods should not enjoy total stoppage of work and traffic on the Sabbath. But there is also no reason to impose such a suspension of activity on secular neighborhoods. Nor does it make sense to destroy the science of archeology by inhibiting digs, conducted with meticulous respect for burial grounds and other Orthodox sensibilities, or to invade the privacy of secular women with laws limiting abortions.

The influence of the pious way of life can serve as a salutary antidote to the anarchic, hedonistic and often nihilistic influences of contemporary life. But such influence can only be achieved through education and the free exchange of ideas, not by arbitrary and inconsiderate coercion.

The polls again

MUCH has been said about the failure of the polls to forecast the election results. But the polls were actually close to the truth in their predictions of the prime minister's race. They indicated that the gap kept narrowing until election day, and although on the last day most polls forecast a three percent lead for Prime Minister Shimon Peres, the pollsters warned that the advantage was within the margin of error. The result, they said, was too close to call.

The inaccuracy of the election day exit polls was the real surprise. Such bellweather samples usually give a reliable picture of the result. It was only when the actual results became known at these polls that the pollsters realized they were substantially different from the exit polls. This means that voters chose to deliberately "cheat" the exit polls, indicating a resentment of the establishment and particularly the media,

which set up these polls. The earlier polls' greatest failure was in the forecasts of the party vote. In this they did not even come close, and if they want to be taken more seriously than astrologers in the future, they will have to re-examine their system thoroughly and mercilessly.

And they had better take some time to do so. If anything is indicated by yesterday's poll - which showed that 89.1 percent of the population believe Benjamin Netanyahu will be a good prime minister and that 57.4% want a national unity government - it is that the pollsters have nothing but contempt for the public's intelligence and memory.

Netanyahu was unimpressed by the polls when they were unfavorable to him. It must be hoped that he will shun them now that they are flattering. Leadership is not government by opinion polls.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PUBLIC FORUMS

Sir, - While making several cogent points about the neglect of the Negev, David Newman ("Second-rate citizens," May 26) also includes several unwarranted comments about the caliber of the persons who presented the positions of their political parties at the public forum sponsored by, among others, The Jerusalem Post.

The purpose of the forums is not to provide a platform to local speakers of English from the various parties. The intention is to allow English-speaking audiences to hear clear presentations of the party platforms by knowledgeable persons who can express themselves in lucid language. The representatives of the Likud and NRP were, respectively, a corporate lawyer with offices in Jerusalem and Washington D.C., and a contract administrator at Israel Aircraft Industries who is also the author of several books about Israeli society. They came well prepared with documentation to support their positions. To refer to them as "un-

known" and "second rate" is to both miss the point of the forum and to offend those parties that took the trouble to send the best they could to represent them. The locally-based Meretz and Labor speakers, on the other hand, were inarticulate, unable to properly express themselves in English and clearly unprepared. This was an insult both to the sponsoring organizations and to the audience of primarily Western-background persons whose political awareness is keen enough to motivate them to spend an evening trying to become acquainted with the issues. Indeed, the NRP representative told me that he had the uncomfortable feeling of taking advantage of the handicapped at the forum.

Mr. Newman's legitimate complaints about the neglect of the Negev do not justify his gratuitous and inaccurate comments about the quality of the forum speakers. FRUMETTÉ KAMPLER Gintot Shomron.

REAL PEACE

Sir, - Shimon Peres didn't lose the race for prime minister because the majority of the Israeli voters didn't believe in his "New Middle East," but because the Arabs don't believe in it and the majority of Israelis (the vast majority of Jews) know that too.

In public, I don't exhibit my elation, because I don't want to upset the people who woke up from their sweet dream that wasn't meant to be. But I found a lot of people in Gilo, bordering Bethlehem, just beaming. This Shabbat. We have to thank the officials who made the results public before Shabbat for giving us this wonderful day.

Not that our worries will be over. Now we will see how much our negotiation partners really want peace. How real our allies will be. But at least now we'll have a government that shares our worries and doesn't turn a blind eye, leaving us terrified - a government that will negotiate for the Jewish state and not just "for the region" giving away half of the country and more, to an Arab people to whom "peace" doesn't mean 10 percent of what it means to Jews. They want dignity, freedom, wealth? Let's negotiate - we want peace - real peace. MAURITS VAN ZUIDEN Jerusalem.

AMERICAN ABSENCE

Sir, - Our Jerusalem Post 180, Jewish War Veterans of the USA, participated in the impressive ceremonies at Yad Vashem making V-E Day. We presented colors: flags of Israel, the US and our Post.

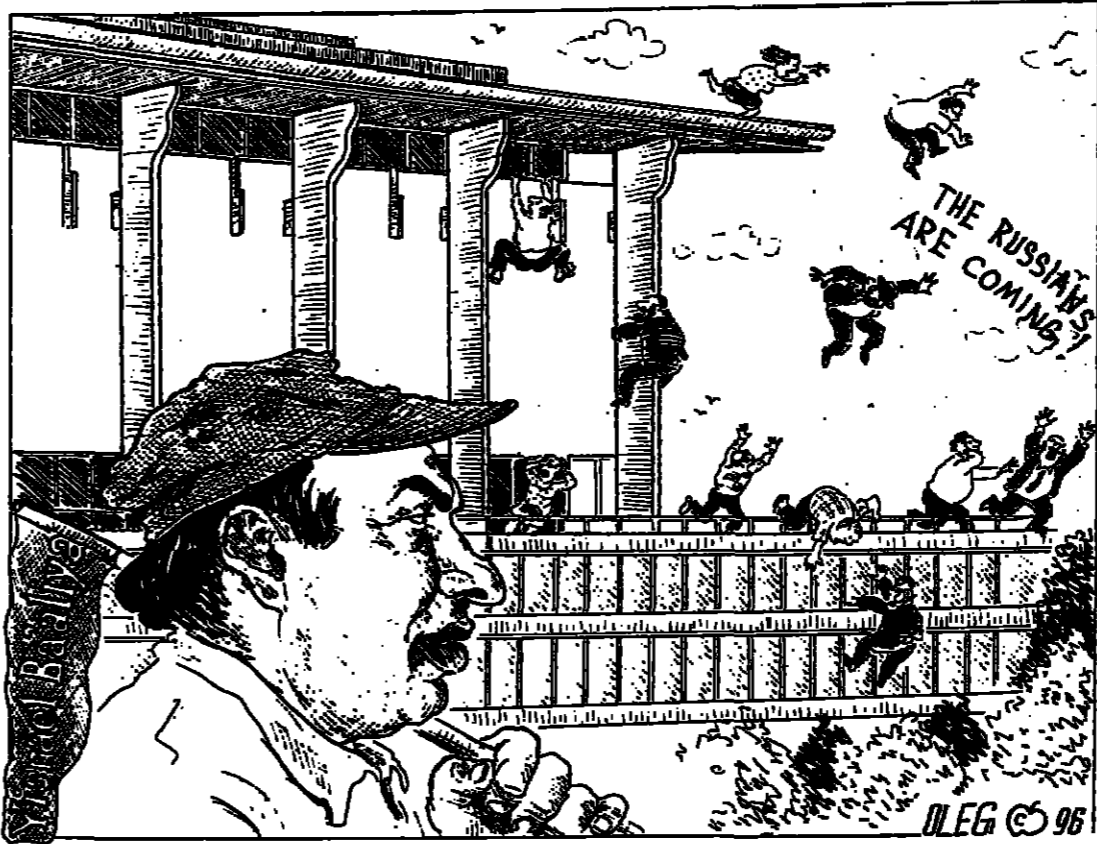
There seemed to be no one present from the US Embassy, and we were asked to present the wreath from the US government. We were privileged to do so, but were very disturbed at the absence of any representative of the country for which we served.

Was this a deliberate statement on Jerusalem by the US government? All of our Allies who fought the Nazis were represented at the event on a day which has been declared an official day of state ceremonies in Israel.

JACK ROSS, Member, Jerusalem Post 180, JWV of the USA Jerusalem.

VILE PROPAGANDA

Sir, - Listening to the morning news and hearing Kana compared to the Holocaust by a Russian representative (May 11) was so ludicrous it was horrifying. To think that even one mind may accept this as a truth should bring everyone into the struggle to fight the distortions. History is being altered before it is a memory by nations whose hands are soiled. It is a perfect example of the propaganda war being waged. In this time of electronic media, we must all find a way to counteract the propagandists who were once journalists; people must know the truth; leaders who make statements such as the above one must be taken to task - how dare they? We must all help David Bar-Ilan. KATHLEEN PARKER Kfar Hess.



Man for the Mossad

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

THE curtain may be coming down on Shimon Peres's political career, but the bitter fruits of the lifelong feud between Peres and his arch-rival Yitzhak Rabin can still be tasted.

The latest victim to feel the effect of the virulent animosity that existed between the two men is Shabtai Shavit, the unassuming, highly professional Mossad head who retired this week.

A man who moved heaven and earth to keep the Mossad's activities secret, Shavit refused to play ball with journalists and feed them juicy news items. To stem leaks he ordered lie-detection tests on officials suspected of leaking information.

When malicious attacks were made against the Mossad, Shavit refused to hit back. His motto: A secret service must remain secret. He shunned publicity and never gave press conferences.

A man of integrity who worked his way up the ranks of the Mossad hierarchy from the 1960s onward, Shavit was the professional's professional.

Yet the moment Peres announced that Shavit would be succeeded by Danny Yatom, who had served as Rabin's and then Peres's military aide, there was a spate of reports alleging that under Shavit the Mossad was in serious disarray - and had been for some time.

There were no facts or any specific detail to back this up other than hints about the "troubled" state of affairs in the Mossad. Totally forgotten were major Mossad achievements during Shavit's tenure.

As foreign reports indicate, it was two Mossad agents on a motor bike who tracked down fanatic Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shkaki in Malta last October and executed him before disappearing from the island as mysteriously as they had arrived.

We can reveal that it was the same Mossad who in 1989-90 warned Israel and the US about the accelerating buildup of Saddam Hussein's nuclear, bacteriological and poison gas industries.

Again the world media declared that it was the Mossad who executed Canadian ballistic scientist Dr. Gerald Bull in Brussels in March 1990. Bull was engaged in building for Iraq a 1000-mm "supergun" capable of firing shells into Israel with greater accuracy than Scud missiles.

POSTSCRIPT

FOR IMPACT, it sure beat an apple.

A nine-year-old boy in Chichester, England, caused consternation when he brought a live World War II mortar shell to school as a present for his teacher.

The boy found the mortar while walking with his parents in a nature reserve used by the army as a war-time firing range.

"When I saw it I immediately realized what it was, but I did not know whether it was an explosive mortar or a smoke one," said headmaster Nigel Coren. "I took the device to an audio room in the school which has a steel door, a steel structure and no windows, before clearing the area." Army bomb disposal experts later removed the device and defused it.

A police spokesman said the device was "a smoke mortar which is not as dangerous as an explosive one. But it is certainly not safe for kids to play with," he said.

A FINE-ART auctioneer house in Paris became an exclusive grocery store, selling humble potatoes for up to a record 3,000 francs (\$600) a kilo. "It's true this may seem folly,

which was eventually signed will surely outlive the shaky Oslo accords with Arafat.

So successfully did the "troubled" Mossad carry out its orders that Peres heard not a whisper about the secret Israeli-Jordanian talks conducted on our side by Shavit's number two, Ephraim Halevi.

When the agreement was signed, Rabin basked in the limelight, leaving a fuming Foreign Ministry complaining bitterly over being left in the dark in what is their claimed bailiwick.

What lies behind the sneering accusations that the Mossad has lost its magic touch, that its days of glory are past, that it is today little more than an inferior kind of information service?

The campaign of abuse and calumny can be traced back to the corridors of the Foreign Ministry, says an intelligence source, to Peres's disciples. All subscribe to the thesis that in the New Middle East envisaged by their boss the Syrians, Iraqis and even Iranians - not to mention Arafat - are ready to march into a golden dawn of brotherhood arm-in-arm with Israelis scrubbed clean of quaint, old-fashioned notions like Zionism and proud Jewish statehood. In such a fantasy the Mossad would play a much-diminished role.

More recently, Western newspapers described how the Mossad had tipped off the Belgians, enabling them to grab a terrorist-designed combined rocket-mortar weapon that had been smuggled into Antwerp. The powerful Iranian-built device was intended for striking at a Jewish target somewhere in Europe.

WHAT HAS all this to do with the apparently orchestrated smear campaign against Shavit? A clue can be found in a secret dossier handed to Rabin when he was prime minister and defense chief a few months after winning the 1992 elections. The dossier detailed how Peres's Foreign Ministry cronies, led by Yossi Beilin, were breaking the law by meeting secretly with PLO terrorist chief Yasser Arafat in European capitals. This was the cloak-and-dagger background to the Oslo accords.

Later Peres rubbished Mossad reports on Iran's unceasing hostile activity, fearing they might harm the "peace process."

Aware of Shavit's loyalty to his boss Rabin, Peres bypassed the Mossad, leaving all contacts with the PLO in the hands of the Foreign Ministry mandarins, who act as if they run their own private, de luxe Mossad.

Rabin chose not to take action against Peres's underhand scheming. But he later cut his rival down to size by ordering the Mossad alone to prepare, secretly, the groundwork of the peace with King Hussein. The positive treaty

was eventually signed will surely outlive the shaky Oslo accords with Arafat.

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The workings of Peres's mind were illustrated by one of his last acts before the elections, when he appointed Yatom as new Mossad chief. One would like to think that Peres's motive wasn't to scupper his rival Netanyahu, should he become prime minister - or to punish the Mossad's professionals by appointing an outsider over one of their own senior officers.

True, Yatom has many virtues. He is a mathematician, physicist, and computer expert. He was OC Central Command. Under Peres and Rabin he was privy to secret intelligence reports.

Yet the new boss would admit that he has little of the practical experience needed in his new job. In the perilous days ahead it is vital that Israel's intelligence service be powerful and professional. One prays that Yatom can rise to the challenge facing him.

The writers are authors of The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East.

In a funk

LARRY DERFNER

WHEN Leah Rabin said she felt like packing her bags and leaving the country, she was not alone.

The thought crossed my mind. It crossed a few of my friends' minds. I heard it a lot in Tel Aviv, on the telephone - it was in the air.

It wasn't serious. Nobody was planning to leave just yet.

But in a few years? I thought about it. For the first time in 11 1/2 years in Israel, I thought the time might be approaching when I wouldn't want to live here anymore.

Alright, we were hysterical. I think most of us have gotten over that, and are settling into a nice, mild depression. Ah, what are we going to do?

To tell you the truth, I don't feel like fighting. One of the reasons I wanted Peres to win was because I wanted to quit having to butt heads with the right. It's gotten very old - the same fights, the same rages over the same issues. I've been addicted to it, arguing with right-wing opponents in my mind for years now.

It's so limiting. I wanted to think about other things - about things that had nothing to do with Israel, Jews, Arabs, nationhood, all that crap. I wanted the country to be free of this noose around its neck, so that we could look around and explore a little, get out of the rut.

But no. We're back in it, maybe deeper than ever. And I think I speak for approximately 49.5% of the people when I say I've got no heart for this.

A like-minded friend explained to me that when it comes to a political fight, the right-wingers are stronger than us. Not only stronger Jews and stronger nationalists, but stronger in themselves, more self-confident. Leftists, almost by definition, are filled with self-doubt.

Who wants self-doubt? Certainly not Israelis.

I REALLY must be having a bout of manic-depression. Just the other day I was the one bucking people up. "We have to fight! The only choice is surrender! Sixty-one votes in the Knesset and we can bring him down!"

It comes and goes. Most of the time, I'm flat. I keep saying, "Well, you've got to get on with your life, you can't be in mourning forever," and then I just sort of sigh.

It's not self-pity. It's aimlessness. It's having had the future all mapped out, of seeing it move, even in fits and starts, toward something brighter. And now? Now I don't know.

People are saying 'Let's hope for the best.' But it feels like somebody died

People are saying, "Let's hope for the best." Fine, let's hope for the best. But the truth is, I'm not hopeful. I'm just mumbling words. "I wish Netanyahu the best." Do? Then why do I feel a ripple in my stomach when I try to say it? It must be confounded rage.

This is just politics, isn't it? So why does it reach down so deep? This has been like a death.

Another friend of mine said that on election night, when Netanyahu started to overtake Peres, "I had a gut feeling like my life was in danger." I did what I always do when total disaster happens - I forced myself to think about paraplegics, cancer victims, people with real problems, so mine wouldn't seem so bad.

For days after the election I would wake up and immediately go into a funk on remembering that Netanyahu had won.

In steadier moments, I see reasons for optimism. Bibi won by 1%, actually a little less; he wasn't exactly anointed. You have to take the long view - maybe we're in for a period of retreat, but ultimately the peace will be made.

The right-wing approach is not only arrogant but also impractical, and eventually people will reject it. Or maybe Bibi will change. Maybe he'll really make "secure peace." It seems only a theoretical possibility, but I have been wrong before.

About a week before the election, when I felt sure that Peres was going to win big and history was going to be decided in our favor, I had one bothersome thought: "This is too good to be true. This is too easy."

Yes it was. We were complacent, and now we're going to have to wrestle with this thing some more.

Either that, or we can surrender, which is the most depressing thought of all.

The writer is a journalist living in Tel Aviv.

Handwritten signature: *Josephine*

عبدالرحمن الالاح

Unsolicited advice is ill-advised

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM

DEAR Ruthie: My friend's wife has many complaints against him. I believe she is telling the truth, from her perspective. But she won't even consider forgiving him or looking at his positive side. He is involved and good to his children. Many women would be envious of such a husband. She carries around a list of gripes in her head, always on the alert for sins he has committed. He doesn't stand a chance. Whatever mistakes he makes are held against him and added to the list. She is far from perfect herself, though, and life would be better for their family if she would learn to forgive and forget. What advice can be given to persuade her to tear up her list and give her husband a fair chance?

Concerned for my Condemned Friend
Somewhere in Israel
Dear Concerned for the Condemned:
The problem you describe is perpetuated by both partners. As an outside observer, your natural inclination is to side with the person most visibly a victim - in this case, your friend.

Though perhaps more congenial than his wife - and though he may be the epitome of paternal saint-hood - he chose her as a mate. Pointing to the "many women who would be envious of [her for having] such a husband" is, thus, futile. Equally futile is the attempt to figure out how to get his wife to chuck her list. If she were asking my advice, I would tell her to examine the "profound" reason for keeping detailed score of her husband's "superficial" failings.

But she is not asking. Nor is her husband, for that matter. If he were, I would tell him to ponder his own part in the family feud. For, while trying to change the behavior of others borders on the superannual, working on ourselves at least provides a "Petri dish" potentially conducive to healthy change. The two remaining options are continued negative dynamics or divorce. However, unless our inconspicuous motives for marrying a certain spouse are confronted, we are likely to go out and find another one eerily similar to his or her predecessor. It is this advice, if any, you might want to pass on to your friend.

Dear Ruthie,
I felt angry at the way you replied.

to "Beside Himself Bachelor" (August 17, 1995).
I am a nurse at a fertility clinic who has seen terrible suffering. While men produce fresh sperm all the time, even in quite advanced years, women are born with a number of ova which are susceptible to every vicissitude of the environment. The later the ovum is fertilized, the greater the danger of malformations of the fetus, and of infertility.

Modern gynecological treatises speak of finishing one's births by the maximum age of 30, after which the curve of misfortunes - both for mother and for fetus - rises steeply. The girlfriend in the letter in question is 33. Her biological clock is not ticking, it is screaming. Future fathers should be informed about this, since why should a man marry when he can have safe sex without commitment?

Ignorance of these facts is extremely widespread, as are infertility rates among Israeli couples, which have reached 18%. More and more people are prepared to go to Asia and South America to adopt babies. You have a moral duty to your readers to present this information.

Unnerved Nurse
Kibbutz Ha'ogev

Dear Unnerved,
I am happy to present your facts but doubtful about whether such information - by itself - can transform the sexual or marital patterns of Israeli couples. Many factors influence relations between men and women regarding the age at which they enter into commitments for the purpose of procreation.

Women's attitudes are no less responsible for the trend you describe than men, however.

The question of "why a man should buy a cow when he can get milk for free" is old hat. What's new is the unwillingness of women to use the "milk" as a bargaining chip for marriage.

The continual production of sperm is nature's way of ensuring reproduction - with or without commitment. If ova are as vulnerable as you say, it is women who must set the terms of uterine "transactions." But, as long as society struggles to eliminate guidelines for such transactions, neither my answers to a "wandering" bachelor, nor your speaking of statistics will make a dent.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.
For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

HELEN KAYE

JUST last week, two more packages slid across Zvi Ravi's desk at the Jerusalem 3000 headquarters. They came from Hebrew schools in New York and Pennsylvania in honor of the city's birthday, and they're the latest offering in a flood of correspondence from all over the world that has overflowed from a filing cabinet into some 40 fat folders.

"People usually send their letters to [Jerusalem mayor] Ehud Olmert," says Ravi, the 3000 committee's coordinator, "and he sends them along to me. For instance, we've received scores of framed proclamations saluting Jerusalem. A priest in Peru collected 100,000 signatures on a petition blessing Jerusalem and presented it to our ambassador in Lima, Yoel Salpak."

Here current events have somewhat upstaged Jerusalem 3000, but around the world its success has been spectacular, celebrated by some 5,000 events in 72 countries. There are some 200 new sites around the world named for Jerusalem, including ones in Vietnam and Fiji.

One of them is the Jerusalem Fountain in Curitiba, a Brazilian city a little south of Sao Paulo. The three bronze angels on its plinth represent the three great monotheistic religions.

"I sincerely hope that the angels [will] be always with your people bringing peace and happiness," their sculptor, Lys Aurea Buzzi, wrote to Olmert.

To Israelis their capital city is a place where they live, work and worship, but for those outside the country, "Jerusalem is a concept, not just a city. It's a concept of holiness," Ravi explains, "a reason for yearning as though Jerusalem isn't truly a part of the real world."

"David brought the Holy Ark to Jerusalem," says Presbyterian minister Mort McMillan of Monroeville, Alabama, "which is a message for Christians as well as for Jews. For us, Jesus is the Messiah and the son of David and that shapes our understanding."

McMillan plays Anticus Finch in the Monroeville Heritage Museum's production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, which has its last performance at the Jerusalem Khan tonight. The Alabamans brought their production here because of Jerusalem 3000.

"The 1,000 voices" of the Protestant Christian all-Holland Choir, which also performs tonight at the Sultan's Pool, has come for the same reason, "and because we want to support and



One of 200 new sites worldwide named after the capital is the Jerusalem Fountain in Curitiba, Brazil. The three bronze angels on its plinth represent the three great monotheistic religions.

encourage the people of Israel at home and abroad," choir manager Meindert Leerling says.

They are singing the Psalms and songs from the Prophets because "they are common to both our religions," Leerling says.

"We are singing a special song for Jerusalem 3000 called 'Jerusalem the City of Peace,'" Leerling adds.

Jerusalem 3000 general manager Yossi Tal-Gan tells of 3,000 members of Makuya, a pro-Israel

Christian denomination in Japan, who arrived in November before the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. They came with special hats, banners, flags, and even balloons. They gave a concert to themselves at the [Jerusalem]

International Conference Center, danced Hebrew folk-dances at Safra Square and at the Western Wall, where they swept bystanders into their dance. It was one of the most moving things I've ever seen. They told me that to reach Jerusalem in the year of the 3000 was the fulfillment of a dream."

However, the reasons behind Jerusalem 3000 were a lot more prosaic and were fueled not by mysticism but by economics. The aim was to put Jerusalem on the map as a major tourist venue and focus for investment, not just as a place of pilgrimage.

The planned 17-month celebration, which started September 4 with a sumptuous sound-and-light show over the Israel Museum, drew diplomatic fire from the European Union. It branded the event as a not-so-subtle effort to influence the yet-to-be-discussed "final status" of the city under the terms of the Oslo accords. Moslem countries also declined to participate.

The boycotts made no difference, Tal-Gan says. To the organizers' delight, initial response to the Jerusalem 3000 calendar of cultural and educational events was almost dizzyingly enthusiastic. Proof of the pudding was that the city's 8,000 hotel rooms were 140% booked.

Then the prime minister was assassinated on November 4, "and the orders stopped coming in and the cancellations began. The decline was stronger after the terrorist attacks in March and peaked with Grapes of Wrath against Lebanon in April," Tal-Gan says.

The biggest cancellation was by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, which was to have performed in September. The Arena di Verona is coming that same month with Verdi's *Nabucco*, and of the 10,000 tickets presold, 8,000 were canceled. Hotel occupancy plummeted to 70 percent, "and it hasn't started to pick up significantly yet," Tal-Gan finishes.

But the pain and the politics haven't crushed the 3000 celebration. Nobody but Chicago canceled. The Israel Festival's visiting artists have all shown up for their performances and none of the other Jerusalem 3000 visitors have bowed out.

And the people keep calling, like the Together Project from Spain, tentatively scheduled for November.

"They called me in March," Tal-Gan relates. "They want to bring 3,000 children from around the world in order to raise a peace monument for all religions. There's talk that each child will bring a stone from his own land to build it."

Argentines shocked by poor cat-eaters

STARTLING images of Argentine shun-children eating cats have shocked this beef-and-grain-rich nation and embarrassed authorities accustomed to trumpeting the success of economic reforms.

Recent television footage of the poor in the second-largest city, Rosario, skinning, gutting and cooking cats provoked public charges of government neglect.

Officials at first denied this was common practice and claimed the media paid the poor to grill the cats. But that suspicion turned to sympathy for the poor as public outrage grew.

It is election time in Argentina, with residents of the capital Buenos Aires set to elect a mayor next month. And officials are eager to avoid the food riots that engulfed Rosario in the 1980s. It is a decayed industrial city ringed by

slums swollen by migrants from poor provinces and hit by unemployment, which although 16 percent nationwide is an even higher 21 percent locally.

Peronist President Carlos Menem has said he was "very concerned" by the plight of the 110,000 poor in Rosario's shanty towns and raised the budget for social spending.

Politicians met on the issue and, as a first step, vowed to open another free kitchen in Rosario. "We will redouble our efforts," Social Development Secretary Eduardo Amadeo said.

Menem was embroiled in a row with bishops last month when they questioned the social benefits of economic reforms. The president said recently he hoped to make Argentina one of the 10 richest nations by the end of his term in 1999.

Analysts say that while the administration has made progress in installing order to the economic chaos it inherited, it has had less success in helping the poor. Officials began to dismantle a protectionist economy in 1991 by pegging the peso to the dollar, privatizing firms and reducing the size of the state with thousands of layoffs.

The government received praise for reducing inflation to 1.6 percent last year from 4,900 percent when the government took office in 1989. It led the economy to average growth of 7 percent a year from 1991 through 1994. Although it slumped by 4.4 percent last year, it is expected to rebound this year.

The private Research Foundation for Development (FIDE) says the share of total income earned by poorer Argentines in greater Buenos Aires fell slightly to 13.3 percent in 1995

from 1990. Meanwhile, the share earned by richer Argentines in the capital area, where one-third of the population lives, rose slightly to 52.7 percent.

The charity Caritas recently accused the government of ignoring the poor and jobless in a country where top-quality beef is a daily staple food and cereals are a major export.


"We Argentines are ashamed to talk about poverty," Elisa Maria Carrio, legislator for the opposition Radical Party, said in an interview. "Let's start to debate these issues. People are eating cats. They are going hungry."

Commentator Mariano Grondona invited the forlorn subjects of the television footage to his live political talk show, the most popular in Argentina, where they pleaded with officials for assistance.



Two boys search for food in a garbage container in Buenos Aires. (Reuters)


Micky's



100,000th basket

Play it, Micky on Hish Gad Sal

First Prize - NIS 100,000



What's happened? Micky's back on the court. Starting today you'll be seeing him on the Hish Gad basketball court. You'll play on the same team. A victory for your team means you hit the jackpot and win the NIS 100,000 first prize or one of the other hundreds of thousands of Hish Gad basketball prizes. Just pass the ball to Micky, even in the game's final second, and as usual, he'll sink the 100,000th basket.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Thursday, June 6, 1996

'Builders' credit at dangerously high level

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE banking sector's overall credit to the construction industry in 1995 was excessively high, resulting in a high credit-to-product ratio and a potentially severe debt-coverage problem in the future, similar to the one previously experienced by farmers, according to the Supervisor of Banks' annual report.

According to the report, which will be officially released next week, the general public's credit-to-product ratio, which gauges the public's ability to repay its debts, reached 69% last year. This was a rise of three percentage points, an increase similar to 1994.

However, the construction industry's credit-to-product ratio increased 130%, a pace which is double that of other sectors - such as industry, commerce and services - and 70 percentage points higher than its level at the beginning of the decade.

Last year the banks' credit weight and credit risk ratios, resulting from provision of guarantees and execution of futures contracts to the construction sector, continued to grow, resulting in the 31% growth in credit given

to the sector compared with 13% in total credit given to the public.

The central bank said the availability of banking sources to the construction sector stemmed primarily from its accelerated activity. Building starts rose 44% last year after a 22% growth in 1994.

The growth in credit is also due to the continued rise in the housing index compared with the Consumer Price Index, a trend which started in 1988 and has resulted in demand for larger loans.

The growth in banking sources to the sector also reflects a drop in the weight of public sector's investments in residential building to 20% in the last two years, compared with about 50% in the 1991-1992 period.

The Bank of Israel emphasized that up until the start of 1995, banks did not have to register additional provisions for doubtful debts since they kept banking sources below the 20% maximum level of credit which they are permitted to grant to the industry.

But, since the first half of 1995, some of the banks were forced to make additional provisions.

UBS: Post-election Israel equally worthy of investment

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

UNION Bank of Switzerland (UBS), one of the world's most prominent banks and Switzerland's largest, expects Israel to remain an investment attraction, though after a short period of uncertainty resulting from last week's elections.

UBS Global Research, which surveys markets for the bank, yesterday published an optimistic update on the Israel's post-election market status, intended to calm foreign investors concerned with Israel's economic prospects under a new administration.

Commenting on the peace process, the analysts said a change of pace and emphasis is expected, but the direction would remain more or less the same. "Ultimately, concessions will be given on all sides, and in this regard, the influence of the US will be pivotal."

Israeli history shows that hawks have encountered less opposition when compromising, said the report, which also suggested that Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu knows the majority of Israelis want peace. "We believe that he will act accordingly," wrote the analysts.

UBS forecasts that after an initial period in which companies,

monetary authorities, neighboring countries and investors will exercise caution and evaluate the policies of the new administration, the economy's hitherto robust performance will continue. "Our medium-to-long-term economic outlook remains largely unchanged. We believe that Israel continues to offer an attractive case for investment."

A sustainable long-term economic growth rate of 5% is achievable and policy will focus on curtailing inflation. The privatization process will be accelerated by the new government and investment in infrastructure and structural reforms should continue, said the report.

The report deals specifically with three major issues: the economic policy framework, medium-term growth of consumption and investment, and the prospective effect of changes in progress on the peace process on export opportunities and direct foreign investment.

According to the analysts, a Likud-led government will broadly unchanged and continue to target for a budget deficit of 2.5% annu-

ally, an inflation target of between 8%-10% and a 6% annual depreciation of the trade-weighted exchange rate.

However, UBS cautioned that as things stand, all three targets will be missed. The budget deficit is running at 4% of GDP, giving cause for concern; inflation appears to be heading toward 12% to 13% and the exchange rate's pace of depreciation has accelerated in recent weeks.

Investment growth, according to the report, may be negatively affected by uncertainty in the short term, while buoyed overall consumption levels will increase in 1996, before moderating in 1997.

As for trade, the analysts do not see any politically driven shift in recent patterns of rapid diversification. Israel should continue to be a magnet for foreign investors as long as economic policy "remains broadly unchanged and pragmatism rules foreign relations."

Short-term interest rates, according to the report, are likely to rise initially from 15.5% to 18%, as monetary authorities try to preempt effects of a higher-than-expected growth in the money supply.

BUSINESS BRIEF

Mercedes smuggling ring uncovered: The Customs and VAT Department said yesterday it has uncovered a Mercedes smuggling ring. Customs officers believe German tourists were driving the cars into Gaza.

Tourists were convinced to take part in the operation by a Palestinian living in Germany. He placed advertisements offering free holidays in Israel to anyone who would drive a car to Israel and then deliver it to his brother in Gaza.

One such tourist, who arrived at Haifa, was given a temporary, tourist tax exemption for the vehicle. After delivering the Mercedes to Gaza, he was stopped at Rafiah on the Egyptian border. During questioning, the tourist revealed that about 10 other vehicles had been successfully smuggled across the border.

David Harris

At least 3 bidders vie for General Bank

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

AT least three consortia are expected to submit bids to purchase control of General Bank on Sunday, the last date for submission, sources close to the sale said yesterday.

Representatives of the bank's owners - the Rothschild family - initially asked contenders to submit bids this week, however, they extended the deadline to next week due to pressure exerted by a number of potential buyers.

Last week, Isrope Participation, controlled by Baron Edmond de Rothschild, announced it intended to sell its General Bank holdings. Union Bank, controlled by Shlomo Eliyahu, has expressed

interest in purchasing General in efforts to expand the bank's infrastructure and activities.

Other potential bidders include the Edgar Fund and Brazilian banking millionaire Edmundo Saffie. A consortium headed by the Damkner group also is reportedly considering a bid.

The Rothschild family holds 52.8% of General Bank, which, according to estimates, will be sold for about \$50m. - a figure higher than the bank's market value.

General Bank posted a first-quarter net profit of NIS 2.14m, compared with NIS 3.3m in the same period last year.

Builders not expecting major changes in housing market under Netanyahu

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

DESPITE Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu's election promises to considerably increase land supply, the real-estate market's general condition will not change significantly, according to Adam Buchman, economic adviser for the Association of Builders and Contractors.

However, experts fear that in the short term the market's current slowdown will persist, thus further destabilizing the nation's housing prices.

Asked to comment on the possibility that a religious party will control the Housing Ministry, Buchman said it is too early to gauge the meaning of such a prospect.

"At this point in time, it is very difficult to assume what will happen, but in general we do not have any expectations of the new government and don't expect any drastic changes," he said. "During the last few months, the ILA has significantly reduced the alloca-

tion of state-owned land for building in areas of high demand. Contractors said the drop in marketing is mainly due to ILA general manager Uzi Wexler's plans to step down from the position in July, as well as bureaucratic obstacles.

Buchman said there are also expectations that more financial assistance will be given to residents eligible for government subsidies. In the past, contractors and others in the real estate field have expressed dissatisfaction with the Labor government's policy of keeping subsidies virtually unchanged.

Buchman said apartment prices are expected to increase 6% in real terms this year, similar to last year's rise.

He said the expected increase in prices is mainly due to the slowdown in ILA allocation of land during the last few months, which has led to a significant drop in new building starts.



Microsoft CEO Bill Gates (right) and CompuServe CEO Bob Massey announce an alliance to help make CompuServe online more accessible to the Internet. To accomplish this, CompuServe will license Microsoft software, such as the Windows 95 operating system. (Reuters)

(תנ"ח) TARGET DANO Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents	PRIME תרומת Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents
Date: 4.6.96	Date: 4.6.96
Purchase Price: 149.77	Purchase Price: 109.23
Redemption Price: 147.57	Redemption Price: 107.78
למכירת פיקוד	למכירת פיקוד

MINISTRY OF FINANCE - Accountant General

Bids are invited for the supply of goods and services for government ministries and agencies, located throughout Israel, as follows:

Tender No. 6/96: Maintenance Services and HELP-DESK for PCs and Auxillary Equipment

- Maintenance services for laptop computers - configurations, expansions, networks and additions.
- Maintenance services for auxiliary equipment for PCs.
- Maintenance services for configurations of laptop and portable computers.
- HELP-DESK services, for support in office software and in operational systems installed in PCs.

Tender No. 10/96: Paper Shredders

- Small office shredders
- Medium-sized departmental shredders
- Large shredders for computer rooms, archives etc.
- Special shredders for shredding cassettes, diskettes, microfilm, microfiche etc.

Priority will be given for locally-produced goods in accordance with the Tenders Law and the regulations therein.

Last date for submitting bids is Wednesday, July 10, 1996 at 12 noon.

Forms may be obtained from the Accountant General, Tenders and Purchasing Department, Ministry of Finance building, 1 Rehov Kaplan, Jerusalem (room 714 or 715, 7th floor).

No undertaken is given to accept the lowest or any other bid.

BEZEQ, The Israel Telecommunications Corp. Ltd.

Tender No.65/96/122/0 "MICHSAF" DEVELOPMENT OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The following general conditions apply:

- Pre-conditions:
 - Parties submitting bids must comply with all laws, including the requirement to keep account books, be an authorized trader, be registered, hold valid licenses to trade, and comply with all relevant standard specifications.
 - Willingness to provide a guarantee as explained in the tender documents.
 - Compliance with the pre-conditions as set out in tender documents.
- The tender documents can be obtained from the Tenders and Ordering Department of the Purchasing Division, 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Sunday to Thursday. NOTE: The tender documents are available in Hebrew only. The tender documents will be provided on submitting a receipt of payment for NIS 1,000.
 - In Israel, payment should be made into Bezeq's Postal Bank account no. 5-311757.
 - Overseas suppliers should make payment into Bezeq's account no. 12-901-97833/64, at the Jerusalem main branch of Bank Leumi LeIsrael.
 The cost of the documents cannot be returned. The receipt, together with details of your company, including authorized trader's number, may be faxed to 972-2-378113. Please verify that your fax has been received by phoning 02-3956145.
- Bids should be placed in the tenders box at 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem, not later than July 23, 1996, at 6 p.m.
- No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid, or to order the entire work from one source.

Bids sent by fax or telegram will not be considered.

BEZEQ, The Israel Telecommunications Corp. Ltd.

Tender No.25/95/164/0 TMX AIR-CONDITIONING UNIT, 8-12

The following general conditions apply:

- Pre-conditions:
 - Parties submitting bids must comply with all laws, including the requirement to keep account books, be an authorized trader, be registered, hold valid licenses to trade, and comply with all relevant standard specifications.
 - Willingness to provide a guarantee as explained in the tender documents.
 - Compliance with the pre-conditions as set out in tender documents.
- The tender documents can be obtained from the Tenders and Ordering Department of the Purchasing Division, 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Sunday to Thursday. NOTE: The tender documents are available in Hebrew only. The tender documents will be provided on submitting a receipt of payment for NIS 1,000.
 - In Israel, payment should be made into Bezeq's Postal Bank account no. 5-311757.
 - Overseas suppliers should make payment into Bezeq's account no. 12-901-97833/64, at the Jerusalem main branch of Bank Leumi LeIsrael.
 The cost of the documents cannot be returned. The receipt, together with details of your company, including authorized trader's number, may be faxed to 972-2-378113. Please verify that your fax has been received by phoning 02-3956145.
- Bids should be placed in the tenders box at 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem, not later than July 18, 1996, at 6 p.m.
- No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid, or to order the entire work from one source.

Bids sent by fax or telegram will not be considered.

BEZEQ, The Israel Telecommunications Corp. Ltd.

Tender No.25/95/164/0 TMX AIR-CONDITIONING UNIT, 8-12

The following general conditions apply:

- Pre-conditions:
 - Parties submitting bids must comply with all laws, including the requirement to keep account books, be an authorized trader, be registered, hold valid licenses to trade, and comply with all relevant standard specifications.
 - Willingness to provide a guarantee as explained in the tender documents.
 - Compliance with the pre-conditions as set out in tender documents.
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Device lets user bypass Mango's expensive outgoing calls

JUDY SIEGEL

WHEN, some 15 years ago, the government "bleached" the color out of Israel Television's broadcasts to discourage the population from "ruining the economy" by buying color TV's, a private company invented the anti-mehikon (anti-eraser) device to restore the color.

Now, a few weeks after the Mango economy-cellular phone was introduced, requiring the expensive use of a Bezeq-card for unlimited access for outgoing calls, a Petah Tikva company has devised a little yellow plug that gets around it.

GMA communications, a 16-year-old company, re-programmed one of its existing devices to produce the Tango, which is plugged into your phone at home or the office.

If you have a Mango, Pelephone's cheap (under NIS 600) cellular phone that dials a single number, or any number if you use a Bezeqcard credit card code, the NIS 399 Tango will turn your call anywhere into a conference call through your home phone.

This practically transforms the Mango into a regular cellular phone - minus the monthly service charges of the cellular phone company. Your home or office phone is billed for all the Mango's outgoing calls.

GMA managing director Ya'acov Halperin said a relatively infrequent caller (five minutes a day) can save NIS 130 a month below the bill he would get if he used the Bezeqcard.

"Everybody wins here - GMA, Bezeq and Pelephone," said Halperin, who notes that the device has received Communications Ministry approval. "A call by Bezeqcard during the day costs NIS 2.90, but using Tango it would cost 50 agorot."

Orange County bond offering goes to Wall Street

SANTA ANA, Calif. (Reuters) - A complex plan by California's Orange County to end 18 months of bankruptcy hinged yesterday on a \$900 million bond offering and the whim of Wall Street investors. With the funds to be raised in the massive deal, Orange County officials have pledged to pay off public debt, employees and other creditors.

If the offering goes according to plan, the deal would close next week and the largest municipal bankruptcy in US history would come to an end.

Want to keep in close touch with your securities till 11 PM?

JOIN OUR TELEBANK. DIAL 02-323777 FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patish (foreign currency deposit rates) (6.5.96)

Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.125	4.250	4.500
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.700	1.750	2.125
Yen (10 million yen)	0.500	0.500	0.750

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (4.6.96)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	Buy	Sell	BANKNOTES	Buy	Sell	Rep.
U.S. dollar	3.6454	3.7053	3.20	3.57	3.6571	3.6571
German mark	3.0942	3.1789	2.08	2.07	2.1495	2.1495
French franc	2.1528	2.1701	2.08	2.07	2.1495	2.1495
Japanese yen (100)	0.0025	0.0027	0.01	0.01	0.0130	0.0130
Dutch guilder	2.6029	2.6448	1.67	1.67	1.8195	1.8195
Swiss franc	0.4957	0.4959	0.48	0.48	0.510	0.510
Swedish krona	0.0029	0.0031	0.01	0.01	0.0130	0.0130
Norwegian krona	0.0029	0.0031	0.01	0.01	0.0130	0.0130
Denmark krona	0.0029	0.0031	0.01	0.01	0.0130	0.0130
Finland mark	0.0029	0.0031	0.01	0.01	0.0130	0.0130
Canadian dollar	2.2845	2.3230	2.24	2.24	2.2827	2.2827
Australian dollar	2.0028	2.0428	1.98	1.98	2.0218	2.0218
S. African rand	0.7421	0.7622	0.67	0.67	0.7022	0.7022
Belgian franc (10)	1.0289	1.0527	1.02	1.02	1.0411	1.0411
Austrian schilling (10)	3.0350	3.0940	2.98	2.98	3.0516	3.0516
Italian lire (1000)	2.1151	2.1493	2.07	2.07	2.1228	2.1228
Japanese yen (100)	0.0025	0.0027	0.01	0.01	0.0130	0.0130
Spanish peseta (100)	0.0439	0.0458	0.04	0.04	0.0415	0.0415

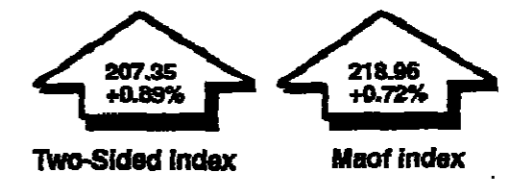
*These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Shares up on optimism over Netanyahu

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



STOCKS rose yesterday as investors bet that Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu would be aggressive about selling state-owned enterprises. Analysts and investors continued to speculate about the country's next finance minister. "Foreign investors like a lot of [Netanyahu's] remarks about privatization, a process he's going to emphasize," said Daniella Firm, head of sales at the securities firm Batucha. "A lot will depend on the nature of the next government." The Maof Index advanced 0.72 percent to 218.96, while the Two-Sided Index added 0.89 percent to 207.35. The most active stock was Africa Israel Investments, a property company, up 4% on NIS 7.3 million worth of shares traded. Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 89.6m. worth of shares traded, 9.3% less than the month's average of NIS 98.8m. and 21% higher than the average industrial output data in its stride. European stock markets were dull, given little direction from mixed early trade on Wall Street, which opened down, and moved in and out of positive territory. France and Germany both closed up, but London stocks closed marginally down, but with the blue chip FTSE 100 index up from the session's low. The market's foremost concern remained 30-year US bond yields, yielding over seven percent again. German shares were listless in bourse trade and moved sideways in later electronic IBIS trade. Volumes were thin in advance of a regional public holiday today and further impetus was stifled by the lower German debt market. French stocks closed slightly higher after a trading in a narrow band with interest fixed on corporate restructurings, dealers said. "Today was very calm. I reckon the market will consolidate further in coming days, without much change," one trader said. Meanwhile, the French stock markets association SBF said trading volume on the Paris bourse had hit a record in May, averaging 6.36 billion francs (\$1.2 billion) daily, compared with 6.11 billion for February 1994, when the previous record was set. On the precious metals market, prices were sharply lower in Europe after an overnight sell-off sent values plummeting, and dealers said they were vulnerable to further weakness. Platinum was trading at two-year lows, having shed about \$6 overnight, while gold and silver were hovering around levels last seen at the start of the year.

Dollar holds bulk of its gains against yen

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - The dollar held the bulk of its recent gains against the yen in Europe yesterday but failed to get a foothold above the 109 yen level. European bourses were lackluster, with sentiment dulled by a mixed opening on Wall Street, where investors were keeping a close watch on the bond market. The dollar had hit a high of 109.35 yen in late trading in New York on Tuesday, helped by US Treasuries regaining some of their recent losses ahead of Friday's important US employment report for May, which could influence US interest rate policy. The yen remained under pressure across the board on speculation that Friday's Tankan report, the Bank of Japan's quarterly survey of business sentiment, will be weak. It had been weakened of late by growing speculation that a shaky Japanese banking system would force the Bank of Japan to keep interest rates on hold for now. But dealers said the dollar's proximity to 110 yen and comments from former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker and others injected a note of caution into a bullish market. Analysts doubted whether the US government was willing to allow the dollar to rise over the psychologically-important 110-yen level unchallenged. Economists said the economic justification for further dollar gains remained in place, but said there was a growing belief that the US and Japanese authorities wanted to prevent the dollar moving outside a broad 100-to-110 yen range. Against the mark, the dollar was firm, taking fresh German

Stocks rise on strong bond market, steady data

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks closed higher yesterday, boosted by strength in the bond market, as investors awaited Friday's employment report. According to early, unofficial results, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 31.77 points to 5,697.48. About 377 million shares changed hands on the New York Stock Exchange, where advancing issues beat declines by about seven to five.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table with columns: MARK, STERLING, YEN, SFR, FF. Includes values for various currencies and their exchange rates.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Large table of stock prices and changes, categorized by Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading. Includes columns for Name, Price, Change, and Volume.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of international stock prices for various countries including New York, London, and other global markets.

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates against NIS.

INFLATION and New York market indexes table.

Other stock market indexes table including FTSE 100 and Nikkei 225.

Israeli stocks in NY table listing various companies and their prices.

FOREIGN FINANCIAL DATA

Table of foreign financial data including dollar crossrates, labor rates, and foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

US COMMODITIES

Table of US commodity prices for various goods.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table of London commodity prices.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table of spot market metal prices.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table of New York metal futures prices.

Small text at the bottom left corner, likely a page number or reference.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

ISRAEL FESTIVAL

HELEN KAYE

THE Bible, but through very different eyes. Rina Yerushalmi's three-and-a-half hour Vayomer Vayelech is a seminal, emotive and theatrically compelling treatment of biblical texts from Genesis to Psalms. The 12 actors of her liturgical ensemble perform magnificently. Audience and actors are on the Sherover stage tonight at 7 and tomorrow at 1 p.m. Not to be missed, and best see it at the festival because the other performance venues are only half the size. (Hebrew)

MULTIMEDIA

HELEN KAYE

ANAT Ben-David astonished and intrigued a lot of people with her first video/film/live presentation The End. Now she has a new show, The Mouth, which is (loosely) the story of what happens when a mouth decides it wants independence. Tonight at Habama Theater at 9. (Many languages, and gibberish)

OPERA

HELEN KAYE

THE novella made suicide fashionable. French composer Massenet made an opera of Goethe's famous tale of unrequited love, calling it simply Werther. The first New Israeli Opera production is directed by France's Jean-Claude Auvray and conducted by Gary Bertini. Mezzo-soprano Sara Fulgoni sings Charlotte, the young woman Werther (Antonio Nagore) adores. At the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center for 10 performances. Opens Saturday at 9 p.m.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

JERUSALEM hosts 1,000 singers from the Netherlands in a special concert tonight at the Sultan's Pool (8) where the guests perform a wide selection of classical, traditional and folk music based mostly on the Bible. Admission is free but those wishing to attend must claim their free ticket in advance either at the Bimot ticket

center or at the Jerusalem Municipality. The choir also performs Saturday (9) at Rabin Square in Tel Aviv. Young and very talented pianist Orit Wolf performs tomorrow (noon) at the Jerusalem Music Center a recital featuring works by Mozart, Beethoven, Schumann, Bartok, Chopin as well as one of her own compositions.

DANCE

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

A SUMMIT of classical ballet stars including Evelyn Hart, Karen Kain, Rex Harrington, Farouk Ruzmaov, Lybov Kunakova, Damian Wozel, Maya Plissetskaya, Robert Conn and many others perform tonight in a special ballet extravaganza titled Gala des Epoules at the Jerusalem International Convention Center as part of the Israel Festival (8). Dance buffs have a busy weekend in front of them. At the Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv you can enjoy Ido Tadmor's highly evocative and at times also provocative Ta ("Cell") in which he creates a powerful framework that is used by himself and his very talented dancers to showcase his own social and sexual preferences and beliefs. Tomorrow (10) and Saturday (9).

The Batsheva Ensemble presents a new program of short dances created by ensemble members Samiray, Monday, Wednesday, next Friday and June 15, 19 at the Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv. 9 except next Friday at 2. And Liat Dror and Nir Ben-Gal present the premiere of their new opera, The Land of Rape and Honey Saturday (9) at the Sherover Theater in Jerusalem as part of the Israel Festival.

TELEVISION

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

SWAN Lake. The words say it all. This is probably the classical ballet of all time, a powerful dramatic and tragic story about lost youth and unrequited love. Tchaikovsky captured the essence of this magical tale in music and ever since its premiere, a century ago, it has been performed by all major dancers in the world including many of those performing in Jerusalem tonight. Now balletomanes can enjoy a fabulous Swan Lake production from the Paris Opera at the Basilie. This Swan Lake is classically oriented yet presented in very colorful and somewhat more modern costumes especially for its middle act. The aerial photography of the corps de the swans is majestic and the overall feeling is of a grand ballet evening which is classical yet suited to our own day and age. Not to be missed! Tonight (10) and tomorrow (6) on Channel 8.

TELEVISION

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 The Cairo Gazette 8:30 Learning to Read 8:50 Social Studies 8:50 The Simply Said No 9:05 Why is there...? 9:25 Programs for young children 10:00 Family Relations 10:30 The Arts 10:55 English 11:15 Literature 11:40 Sciences 12:00 English 12:15 Sciences 13:05 Mathematics in Everyday Life 13:30 Scary Tales 13:40 Curiosity 13:45 Kids' Club with Tommy 14:00 Shetlitz Quick 14:25 Mrs Poppercorn 14:35 Koppku 14:45 Gaye, Gal and Gil 15:00 Surprise Train

CHANNEL 1

15:31 Denver, the Last Dinosaur 15:50 In Danny's Room 16:00 Heartbreak High 16:45 Zap to Doves 16:58 A New Evening 17:24 Zap to Pop 18:15 News in English ARABIC PROGRAMS 18:30 Current Affairs 19:00 News in Arabic HEBREW PROGRAMS 19:30 Every evening with Merav Michaeli 20:00 Mebat News 20:45 Culture Magazine 21:45 Black Easter - Europe is divided into East and West with thousands of refugees crossing the borders. A German policeman investigating the death of a Danish girl whose body was found in no man's land discovers a shadowy secret about Europe's past. Starting Tuesday (9) 23:30 News 00:00 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 2

13:00 From the Concert Hall 13:30 Back to Back 14:00 The Intropics 14:30 Tick Tack 15:00 News Bulletin 15:05 Clipp - local video clips 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 News magazine with Rafi Reshet 18:00 Santa Barbara 19:00 Baywatch 20:00 News 20:30 Canada's Corner with Royal Show 21:40 Dan Shilon Live 22:15 Family Towers 00:00 News 00:05 Ticket for two 00:30 Dori on Air with Dori Ben-Ze'ev 1:00 Dori on the Concert Hall 2:00 Through the Night 2:30 On the Edge of the Sheet

JORDAN TV

15:00 Aladdin 15:30 NBA 16:30 Pirates 17:00 French programs 19:15 Soccer - Seventh Arab Cup Winners' Cup 21:00 Star Trek 22:00 News in Arabic

WHERE TO GO

Notice in this feature are changed at \$522.08 per line, including VAT, per insertion every day of the month costs \$522.08 per line, including VAT, per month.

JERUSALEM HELENA RUBINSTEIN CONDUCTED TOURS OF THE MUSEUM COLLECTIONS. HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. 1. Agrippa, Against Violence. 20 posters. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. 6919155-5.

TEL AVIV MUSEUMS TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Susan and Anton Friedland-Rosenberg Collection: 24 masterpieces by modern artists. Josef Beuys: Drawings and Objects. Prints: new acquisitions. New Horizons: 12 posters. Dorit Doron: Stuffed Wolf. Face to Face. The Museum Collections. HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. 1. Agrippa, Against Violence. 20 posters. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. 6919155-5.

HAIFA WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, tel 04-574253.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES Jerusalem: Kuper Holim Clinic, Straus A. 3, Avigdor, 706680; Shufat, Shufat Road, 810108; Bar Aldeva, Herod's Gate, 282052.

DUTY HOSPITALS Jerusalem: Bikur Holim (Internal, pediatric); Hadassah Ein Kerem (surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, ENT); Sheva Zedek (obstetrics); Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery); Netanyah: Laniado.

POLICE 100 FIRE 102 FIRST AID 101

Medical help for tourists (in English) 017-22-8111 The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-8222205, for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning. Eshel - Emergency Aid. 1201, also Jerusalem 610303, Tel Aviv 5461111 (children/youth 6961113), Haifa 28722223, Beer Sheva 494333, Natanya 6251110, Karmiel 888170, Kar Sea 767455, Hadera 346789.

QUICK CROSSWORD ACROSS 1 Shipor (5) 4 Funeral piles (5) 8 Consumed (5) 9 Proclivity (7) 10 Whirlwind (7) 11 Twelvemonth (4) 12 Sleep (3) 14 Bay (4) 15 Swear (4) 18 Finales (3) 21 Chances (4) 23 Cock (7) 25 Hide (7) 26 Amid (5) 27 Fifties (5) 28 Natural gift (6)

DOWN 1 Ditch (6) 2 Thing (7) 3 Clear soup (8) 4 Scheme (4) 5 Lift (5) 6 Sweet (6) 7 Smooth and shiny (5) 13 Vista (8) 16 Result (7) 17 Compelled (6) 19 Comical (5) 20 Correctly (6) 22 Diver (5) 24 Extremely (4)

MIDDLE EAST TV

14:00 The 700 Club 14:55 Express on Fire - A night train to Moscow is set ablaze. (82 mins.) 15:05 Urban Peasants 16:30 Dennis the Menace 18:55 Mask 17:20 Diptolo 17:45 Front Runners 18:40 The A-Team 19:30 World News Tonight (Arabic) 20:00 CNN 20:30 Evening Shade 20:55 Jale and the Fatman 21:45 Law and Order 22:35 The 700 Club 23:05 Larry King - Live

CABLE

18:00 News 18:15 Arts magazine 17:15 Contemporary People 18:00 NBA 19:00 News in Arabic 19:30 Today - News in Russian 20:00 Mabat News 20:45 Teleset 21:15 Khabar - British cartoon drama series 22:45 International Crime - Documentary series 23:15 Inside Story 00:00 Closedown

ETV 3 (33)

15:30 Sugar and Spice 16:00 Home Field 16:30 Invitation to Sport 17:00 Great Inventors 17:30 Boulez 20th-Century Music 18:00 Faces of Culture 19:30 Panama Perspective 19:30 Zero Hour 19:30 Magazine in Russian 20:00 A New Evening, with Russian Subtitles 20:30 Family Album 21:00 Zombi Business 21:30 Final Hit now 22:00 70 Faces 22:30 Evolution

FAMILY CHANNEL (8)

8:00 Falcon Crest (pt) 8:00 One Life to Live (pt) 8:45 The Young and the Restless (pt) 10:30 Days of Our Lives (pt) 11:25 Peta Negra (pt) 12:10 The Young and the Restless (pt) 13:30 Starting at 13:30 14:05 21 Jump Street 14:55 Falcon Crest 15:50 Days of Our Lives 16:40 Neighbors 17:10 Dallas 18:00 One Life to Live 18:45 The Young and the Restless 19:30 Local broadcast 20:00 Peta Negra 20:50 New York News 21:40 Boundaries of Broadway (1988) - Madonna and Matt Dillon star in this comedy based on Damon Runyon's stories. Directed by Howard Brookner (30 mins.) 23:10 Mad About You 23:20 Moby Dick 23:30 Return to Eden 3:00 Robin's Club 3:45 Paris - action series

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

10:30 Limit Up (1989) - a shy girl determined to make it in business agrees to sell her soul to the devil (pt) 12:10 What's New at the Movies 12:10 Decameron Nights (1953) - a British version of the famous medieval tales of love and lust. With Joan Fontaine and Louis Jourdan. Directed by Hugo Frezza. (85 mins.) 13:45 Two Brothers Running (1990) - two brothers compete about everything (pt) 15:15 Industrial Symphony No. 1 (1989) - Surreal performance piece directed by David Lynch. Julie Christie's performance in the Brooklyn Academy of Music is mixed with shots of Laura Dern and Nicholas Cage (55 mins.) 16:10 Babies (1990) - documentary about the struggle of five American women to become pregnant (88 mins.) 17:45 Tropicale and the White Chorus (1989) - a little girl saves a dolphin whose life is in danger (pt) 19:20 After the Shock (1990) - docu-drama about how ordinary San Francisco citizens became heroes after the 1989 earthquake (pt) 21:00 FTW (1994) - an ex-cop and a woman compete for the need of a girl on the run from the law after her brother's death. With Mickey Rourke (100 mins.) 22:40 Turtle Beach (1992) - an Australian journalist in Malaysia to help Vietnamese boat people must fight both the Malaysian and Louis Jourdan. Directed by Hugo Frezza. (85 mins.) 13:45 Two Brothers Running (1990) - two brothers compete about everything (pt) 15:15 Industrial Symphony No. 1 (1989) - Surreal performance piece directed by David Lynch. 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Court rejects petition to count blank ballots

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday unanimously rejected three petitions which asked that blank ballots not be disqualified from the final vote count.

Had the petitions been accepted, a second round of prime ministerial elections would have been required, since the law says a candidate must receive more than 50% of the valid ballots to be declared a winner in the first round. It is not known how many of the 148,000 invalidated ballots were blank, but according to the Central Elections Committee, there were probably enough so that had they been counted, neither candidate would have received 50% of the total votes.

The petitions claimed the law was meant to ensure that a candidate receive the confidence of at least 50% of the voting public before being declared a first-round winner. Blank ballots should be counted for this purpose, they argued, since blank votes are a legitimate way for a person to vote no-confidence in both candidates.

In response, both the state and prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu argued that the language of the law forbade blank ballots to be counted. Even if this were not the case, however, it would be wrong to accept the petitions now, they said, because this would be changing the rules of the game after the fact. People cast blank ballots with the understanding that they would not be counted, the state said, and it is not fair to retroactively change the meaning of their votes.

Justice Aharon Barak, Shlomo Levine, Gavriel Bach, Mishael Cheshin and Yitzhak Zamir ruled that there was no need to even discuss this second issue, because the

state won on the first argument.

The law defines an invalid ballot as "any ballot which does not conform to the instructions of paragraph 76 [of the Election Law]." Paragraph 76 gives two options for a valid ballot: The standard ballots with the candidate's name printed on them or "a blank ballot on which is written the candidate's name, and that is all." From this, the justices said, it is clear that a blank ballot with nothing written on it does not meet the requirements of paragraph 76, and is therefore invalid.

This interpretation is consistent with both the purpose of the law and with traditional Israeli practice, since blank ballots have never been counted in Knesset elections, the justices added. It is also consistent with what the CEC told voters before the elections.

"The question of the desirability of blank ballots in Israeli elections is not at all a simple one," the ruling continued. "It might be appropriate for the Knesset to discuss this question prior to the next elections, and make a clear statement as to the place of the blank ballot in elections. But whatever the desirable arrangement might be - and we are not expressing any stand on this issue - it has no impact on our interpretation of the law [as it stands]."

The court also reacted in its ruling to implied statements by attorneys for Netanyahu and the Third Way that they should refrain from accepting the petitions because of the public outcry this would cause.

"If we had believed the petitions were right, and that blank ballots do have to be counted according to existing law, we would not have hesitated to say so," the justices wrote. "That is what the rule of law means."

Warsaw blast rocks Jewish restaurant

POLICE said vandals set off an explosion near a car parked outside a Jewish restaurant in Warsaw yesterday, shattering windows in the restaurant and badly damaging the car. The Menora restaurant was closed at the time and no one was hurt. Police said the car, and not the restaurant, was the target, and that the explosion appeared to be an act of vandalism. AP



Justice Theodor Orr, chairman of the Central Elections Committee, tells reporters in the Knesset yesterday that despite some technical difficulties, the country's first experience with directly electing the prime minister was a success. Orr is flanked by MK Dan Tichon (Likud) and Tamar Edri, director of the committee. (Israel Hareiz)

CEC consensus: Direct elections worked

EVELYN GORDON

THE law for direct elections of the prime minister has some rough spots that need to be ironed out, but overall it worked well. This was the consensus of the Central Elections Committee.

"Committee members were speaking at a reception in the Knesset yesterday to mark the official sealing of the election results. The numbers were unchanged from those which have already been published, however.

"The principal lesson to be learned from the new direct election law is positive," said MK Avraham Poraz (Meretz), noting that in previous years, even after the election was over no one knew who would be prime minister. "You know it's good when even representatives of the parties that lost say everything was run fairly."

"What happened was a victory for democracy," said MK Dan Tichon (Likud), citing the high voting rate, which approached 90% if emigres are excluded.

"No other democratic regime has a voting

rate this high," agreed MK Ra'anan Cohen (Labor) proudly.

Despite this, both the MKs and CEC chairman Theodor Orr agreed that there were several technical problems that needed to be fixed. In particular, Cohen said, the system of having two envelopes - one for party elections and one for the prime ministerial race - clearly created confusion, as evidenced by the fact that over 5% of the ballots cast for prime minister were disqualified, compared to less than 2% of the ballots cast for parties.

Cohen also said something should be done to reverse the decline of the big parties and the increased strength of the smaller ones, saying this made it too difficult to govern. Poraz, however, praised the new system, saying it gave voters a chance to more accurately express their desires.

What needs most to be changed, Poraz added, is something that has nothing to do with

the law: The massive littering that accompanies campaigns.

"We still haven't succeeded in inculcating cultural norms regarding the environment into the elections," he said. "There is no reason for a campaign to entail environmental damage."

Orr added that the law banning pictures of politicians in the electronic media before the elections was totally inappropriate to the current age. One of the hardest tasks the CEC faced, he said, was to strike a balance between freedom of the press and the need for fair coverage.

The session was marked by good will on all sides. Cohen opened his remarks by wishing prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu success in his new job, and Tichon responded with good wishes for outgoing Prime Minister Shimon Peres, whom he termed "one of [Israel's] greatest politicians."

Orr called Netanyahu to congratulate him on his victory and to give him the final election figures.

WEATHER

Galun	15-28
Haha	20-27
Tiberias	18-24
Azra	17-22
Samartha	17-30
Jerusalem	18-22
BeerSheva	17-22
Dead Sea	25-37
Eilat	23-28

Forecast: Slight rise in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Humid
Alexandria	22	SE 10	Partly	65
Bahia	24	SE 10	Partly	75
Buenos Aires	18	SE 10	Partly	65
Calcutta	28	SE 10	Partly	75
Cairo	24	SE 10	Partly	65
Chongqing	28	SE 10	Partly	75
Copenhagen	18	SE 10	Partly	65
Guangzhou	28	SE 10	Partly	75
Hong Kong	28	SE 10	Partly	75
London	18	SE 10	Partly	65
Los Angeles	24	SE 10	Partly	65
Manila	28	SE 10	Partly	75
Moscow	18	SE 10	Partly	65
New York	24	SE 10	Partly	65

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, nine of hearts, king of diamonds, and eight of clubs.

2 officers jailed after fatal Lebanon bombing

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

TWO junior officers who led a convoy into a booby-trap that killed four soldiers in south Lebanon last week were sentenced to jail terms for not carrying out procedures to protect their convoy, the army said.

The two, both first lieutenants, were responsible for the first convoy which left the IDF liaison headquarters in the south Lebanon town of Marjayoun last Thursday on patrol. According to an investigation by Brig-Gen. Giora Inbar, head of the IDF Liaison Unit to Lebanon, the two failed to make sure safety regulations were taken. A remote-controlled bomb went off as the convoy approached the Red Cross offices in town, slightly wounding two soldiers.

A second convoy which had been heading toward Metulla turned around and rushed to give aid to the wounded. Minutes later a second explosion killed three officers, including a lieutenant colonel, and mortally wounded a sergeant. Seven other soldiers were wounded.

The investigation found that the officers of the first convoy had not taken all the necessary precautions. One was given a 21-day jail sentence and the other was sentenced to 35 days in jail, the army said.

According to *Yedioth Aharanot*, one officer was sentenced despite evidence that he had instructed his troops to take the precautionary measures and checked to make sure they were implemented. The second officer was reportedly directly responsible for making sure the instructions were carried out.

At the festival



Rebecca Crown: Adult puppet theater, *Faustus in Africa*, by Handspring Co. from S. Africa, 9 p.m.
JT plaza: Children, mime Shimon Aplatoni, 5-6; family, Givat Zeev singers, 7 p.m.; rhythm and blues, soul and country with Charley Rizzo and the Road to Emmaus ensemble, 8 p.m.
Small Hall: Vocal recital, soprano Tamara Romer, tenor Yevgeny Tcherniak, piano Yevgeny Senderowitch, 9 p.m.
JT foyer: Jazz, Mameloe Guttenopolis Quartet, 11 p.m.; Gerard Behar: Dance, *Every Word a Gold Coin's Worth*, from Slovenia's Betonanc, 9 p.m.; Dormition Abbey: Violinist Thomas Zehetsnik plays Bach solo violin, 8:30 p.m.

Jerusalem Theater (JT): Sherover stage: Theater, *Vayomer Vayelech* by the Rim Ensemble, 7 p.m.; Henry Crown: Comedy, *The Bible Abridged*, by The Reduced Shakespeare Co., 9 p.m.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Four killed in car accidents in North
Four people were killed in two separate accidents early yesterday morning. A car on Highway 65 near Moshav Ilana swerved into oncoming traffic, hitting a truck head-on. The car's driver and passenger died immediately. The truck driver was lightly injured and taken to Poriya Hospital.

A car near Kibbutz Afikim inexplicably drove off the road and crashed into an olive tree. Two passengers were killed immediately and the third was seriously injured.

Judges staying in Deri trial
The Jerusalem District Court judges in the Deri trial yesterday turned down a request by the defendants that they disqualify themselves. The defendants charged that the judges had formed their opinions on the case before the trial began.

THE LAST JEWS IN YEMEN

A new color video documenting the 2500 year old Jewish community in Yemen, just before their dream of Aliyah to Israel was fulfilled. The film follows Tamar Jaruffi-Ungar, a young Israeli of Yemenite descent in search of her ancestral roots. Included are scenes from places never filmed before portraying Jewish everyday life and the biblical, religious practices of this unique and ancient Jewish enclave. Filmed by Jack and Tamar Ungar. Produced by Larry Frisch. Narrated in English, 43 min. JP Price NIS 59.00

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